

*Private Members' Business*

cials in charge of buying and selling the land. This leads me to believe that, had we put one single local unit in charge of the entire process, there would have been no problem. There would not have been such a big problem due to lack of communication, misgivings about what a mandate is, the perception some may have regarding the sale or transfer of the lands known as the pines for the property south of highway 344, all legitimate questions the people have after going through the dreadful crisis they experienced.

Let us not forget that the events of the summer of 1990 have left indelible scars on these people's minds. Of course, each time a problem arises in Oka, the people who have not yet recovered from that crisis will get very insecure. It is only normal that they ask questions and want their concerns answered.

In closing, I wish we had created that agency, but the government decided otherwise and I am prepared to work with Public Works, Indian and Northern Affairs and the negotiating committee. However, I would really like to know when the negotiations will be over. When are we going to see the light at the end of the tunnel at the negotiating table. It looks so complicated to many people, but it seems to me that, with a little good will, considering the serious unemployment situation in Kanesatake, considering that economic concerns must be resolved without delay, it would be time to set aside all those animosities and act to restore good relations and put an end to those negotiations which are dragging on and are not conducive to bringing the two communities closer together.

[English]

**Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in the House today to speak on the private member's motion put forward by the hon. member for Argenteuil—Papineau, my colleague from the area that is involved in this particular motion.

Her motion reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of creating the *Société Immobilière Oka-Kanesatake* and to transfer to the *Société* the budget already allocated by Treasury Board for the purpose of negotiating the reunification of lands at Oka-Kanesatake.

I would like to establish three important points that this House and the Canadian public need to be aware of. First, this motion is irrelevant since the member's own government has already objected to the idea in a letter which was sent to the chief of Kanesatake.

Second, the member is in conflict of a responsibility to all of her constituents and to the members of this House.

Third, the precedent set by establishing this process in Oka would be unwieldy and costly in all other regions of Canada where land claims processes are being negotiated.

This motion is an example of a waste of time and taxpayers' dollars. The government has already opposed the idea in a letter that the Minister of State for Indian Affairs wrote to Chief Jerry Peltier on March 11, 1992. In that letter the federal minister gives very clear assurance that there will be no acquisition of properties by the special office proposed by the member opposite before any issues are addressed at the negotiating table.

The minister also stated that she believes in the current negotiating process. The Mohawk Council of Kanesatake already has a negotiating process in place with the federal government for the transfer of land. The federal negotiator is Bernard Roy who has developed the process in conjunction with the Mohawk Council. The negotiators are progressing. If they are to succeed, it is essential that these parties are allowed to proceed.

This motion is an attempt to undermine and destroy the negotiating process between the federal government and the Mohawk Council. You cannot look to a business deal, a real estate office, for a very complicated political problem that needs a unique solution, as she puts it. You need to deal within the realm of politics because it is not a business deal that will deal with this particular issue or that will resolve it.

In my view, the member is in conflict. She is not only proposing a motion that her own government has already rejected, she is also working against her own constituents whom she was elected to represent in this House, not work against. They are the Mohawk residents of Kanesatake. Whether she agrees or disagrees, they are also her constituents. She has shown no respect for the Mohawk government of Kanesatake.