

Government Orders

population, amounts that would be fair for a referendum.

I understand why the member for Jonquière is presenting these motions. It is because he was sitting on several committees to prepare for what was called a renewed Canada. I understand the member for Jonquière because at least we realized that those committees were organized and planned by the government, by the Liberal Party, and that they were phoney. These committees were phoney because everything had been planned beforehand. They toured Canada and listened to Canadians from coast to coast, fully aware that their reports were already written. We realized that while the committees were touring Canada, members of the Privy Council and other government officials were in Ottawa preparing the committee's report. It was indeed a phoney committee and the member for Jonquière, when he realized what was going on—

An hon. member: Do you really think he realized what was going on?

Mr. Leblanc (Longueuil): Maybe he did not but then again maybe he did. Let us say he did and that what he wanted to do with these motions, with these amendments to the referendum bill, was to put a stop to these abuses and make the bill a little bit fairer and more equitable.

Mr. Speaker, for the past months I have been watching TV at home and usually when we celebrate our country, or the Queen, or Dollard, it only lasts a few days. But now, for the 125th anniversary of the country, in Quebec we get advertising every 15 minutes on every TV channel.

It is a case of subliminal advertising. They want Canadians, and Quebecers in particular, to believe that they are living in a great country. We are shown magnificent mountains, beautiful lakes and rivers. That is all very nice but they have magnificent mountains in Peru as well. They also have beautiful lakes and rivers in that country. More great mountains can be found in Africa, in the desert, and there are many beautiful lakes around the world. That proves nothing. It does not show that five years down the road this country will be completely bankrupt because there are too many political powers in this country.

I was listening to the hon. member for Outremont earlier. If I were him, I would not have dared rise in this House, especially after having sat on the Bélanger-Campeau and experienced first-hand this exercise in democracy the people of Quebec have carried out. That was a good idea to set up the Bélanger-Campeau commission, and it showed respect for the public to appoint representatives from management, labour, the cultural spheres, the health sector, the three main political parties—the Liberals, the PQ and even the Equality Party, which is not really a party, with only two members at the present time, but it had three then.

They listened carefully. It was not a mock committee like the one we are trying to establish with this referendum bill here. This is an absolutely appalling bill. Personally, I cannot understand this. It is beyond me. In a country that claims to be democratic, to actually see such a bill being introduced supposedly to seek the opinion of the population while trying to manipulate it, that is appalling. You cannot manipulate people like that. The people of Quebec will not tolerate being manipulated. Quebecers are no longer the water carriers they are thought to be in the rest of Canada. Quebecers are educated. They set up and operate businesses. They are self-reliant and capable of evaluating the performance of this government here in Ottawa.

Right now the House of Commons is trying to pull the wool over their eyes. You think that is what will happen. You think that Quebecers do not see what is going on. Quebecers are currently watching and soon they will take concrete action that will turn against you people, who try to fool them. Quebecers have had enough.

An hon. member: They will beat you at the election.

Mr. Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, you know that yesterday the Conservative parliamentary secretary said that the hon. member for Jonquière was a patriot. I recall that somebody else was called a patriot. His name was Louis Riel. It is that same party, the Conservative Party, who hanged him because he wanted to defend French Canadians in Manitoba. Quebecers remembered those same Conservatives and Prime Minister Macdonald for a 100 years. They elected Liberals in Ottawa. Once in a while they threw them out.