

Government Orders

I recently discovered something, much to my chagrin, because my ancestry is Scottish. Some of my ancestors came to this country and availed themselves of the ability to acquire land very, very cheaply. It was known as homesteading, a way of settling the west, which certainly the country needed. To my horror, I discovered that our native people were not able, whether they were treaty Indians or whether they were Métis, to become homesteaders, at least without giving up their heritage and without giving up their treaty rights. That is certainly an outrage that cannot be corrected, but an outrage nonetheless and something for which certainly our aboriginal people are suffering yet today.

The fact is these people had inhabited the land for century after century after century. They had developed in the country, on the land, forms of government which suited themselves extremely well, and of course which we know today would, can and must still hold them in very good stead. Of course, I am talking about their inherent right to self-government. It certainly has been demonstrated that they are eminently qualified to be able to do that.

• (1150)

As well, as a western Canadian, I am aware of the devastation that was caused by forcing the aboriginal people on to reserves. I am also aware of the piracy which occurred when after the reserves were set up, those who were in charge, those who were in control, those who were in power of authority proceeded post-haste to illegally take back many, many of the acres and many, many parts of the best farmland in the different provinces from those to whom it had been promised.

Just recently in the province of Saskatchewan, the Canadian and provincial governments have gone a short way toward rectifying some of those injustices, but nonetheless there is much more which has to be done. That is a concrete way of rectifying some of the faults which we have perpetrated in the past.

In conclusion, I congratulate my colleague from Kamloops for having brought forward this motion. I certainly ask that members unanimously support its furtherance through the House.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Since there are no further speakers on this bill, the time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

[*English*]

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time and that there are no further speakers on this bill. After listening carefully to all of the interventions, which were very thoughtful from all sides of the House, there seems to me to be unanimity in having this bill referred to a legislative committee.

At this point, I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to seek unanimous consent to have this bill sent to a legislative committee for further study.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Does the hon. member have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

An hon. member: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): There is not unanimous consent.

[*Translation*]

SITTING SUSPENDED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The sitting of the House is therefore suspended until noon, when we will proceed to consideration of Government Orders.

At 11.52 a.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 12.01 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 81—GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East) moved:

That this House condemn the government's continued adherence to its failed economic policy of trickle-down misery.