

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hochelaga—Maisonneuve (Mr. Desrosiers), on a point of order.

Mr. Desrosiers: Mr. Speaker, I think we are here to discuss Bill C-45. Some sort of trial is being staged in this House. In my view, he does not have to defend himself on account of what the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) said earlier. No one in particular was attacked, no name was mentioned. So he is bringing him up for trial, and I for one am asking to return to the matter of Bill C-45, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Boudria: Of course, I will continue my comments in this period for questions or comments regarding the Hon. Member's speech. I am almost finished, and I am sure the Hon. Member for Hochelaga—Maisonneuve (Mr. Desrosiers) will take all the time he requires.

I want to repeat to the Hon. Member that I am not ashamed of those humble beginnings. It is a feature which I think assists me in representing my constituents in the House of Commons. It is a feature not often found in silk stocking socialists and one perhaps which would be required by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

● (1500)

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to start comparing my humble beginnings with the Hon. Member's humble beginnings. I do not want to get into a spitting match. First, I alluded to people who may have come into the House of Commons. I did not name anyone.

Mr. Boudria: There is only one.

Mr. Rodriguez: I do not know what particular Members of Parliament have paraded through this House of Commons over the last 15, 20 or 25 years. Furthermore, I do not back away from my comment about possibly closing the House. There was a whole lot of bell ringings which closed down the House of Commons for two weeks, three weeks or whatever. Members of Parliament did not concern themselves about the importance of Parliament then. The Liberals in this session have tried to pattern themselves after the Tories when during the last Parliament they closed the place down. I did not hear any great concern about the importance of this place making laws. The Hon. Member knows this is a political arena and I wish he would stop this nonsense.

Mrs. Maily: Maybe to you it is.

Mr. Rodriguez: Second, the Hon. Member is the last one to cast aspersions on me. Every single day he casts aspersions on government Members in the House. He throws mud all the time across the Chamber. Now some of it gets stuck on him and he does not like it. I am sorry. I have been noted to call a spade a spade and I will repeat that people got their positions working on this Hill because of whom they knew, not because of what they knew. There were no competitions on the Hill. I do not back away from that.

Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act

I am saying that the Hon. Member had ample opportunity, if he knew all of those things were wrong, to convince the Liberal administration, of which he was a member, and he could have perhaps forced the Liberal Government to bring in some legislation to give protection to workers on the Hill. At least the Conservative Party had enough courage to bring Bill C-45 forward. At least that is something, as bad as it is. It shows a lot more courage than the Liberals showed when they were the Government for 16 years.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hochelaga—Maisonneuve (Mr. Desrosiers) for a question or comment.

Mr. Desrosiers: Mr. Speaker, I heard the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) refer to the cafeteria service earlier in his remarks. I would like to know whether under Bill C-45 this Government could not have done something else concerning the cafeteria service. We know this is a major problem. Nobody is happy. Given this Bill, would the Hon. Member allow the Government to decide for instance to privatize everything in the way of restaurants, cafeterias, and so on? Would the Hon. Member allow that?

[English]

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, first let me say I welcome at least the attempts by the Hon. Member to try to resolve some of the problems. I would suggest that rather than privatizing the cafeterias and the restaurant, we sit down at committee stage to beef up and tighten up Bill C-45. If we can get that commitment, we can give the workers the opportunity to negotiate some of the injustices in the Bill. I would not want to privatize the cafeterias and the restaurant because I know that turning them over to the "whirly whips", or whatever the fast-food outlet is called, would be worse. We have an opportunity to correct the injustices in Bill C-45. I take the Hon. Member's question as a serious commitment to resolving some of the inconsistencies and injustices in the Bill.

[Translation]

Mrs. Maily: Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what we would recommend to the Hon. Members opposite. We would like the Bill to be referred to committee, as required, where it could be improved upon specifically in the direction suggested by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) and in other directions also because there are other aspects of the Bill we would like to have improved. So that is the suggestion. I am going to ask him a question.

[English]

The purpose of this part of the Bill—

[Translation]

We are talking about one aspect of the Bill, in Clause 5.

[English]

The purpose of this Part is to provide to certain persons employed in Parliamentary service collective bargaining and other rights in respect of their employment.