

Business of the House

marching on the Government for destroying democracy within this country.

Mr. Lewis: They marched before and there were precious few NDP with them.

Mr. Langdon: There were a lot of New Democrats with them.

What must be recognized is that there is one clear issue before this House, one clear issue to which the Deputy House Leader referred, and that is the question of whether it is essential that this summer the people of Canada be forced into this trade deal. The answer to that question is that it is not necessary, it is not right, it is not acceptable, it is not democratic, and it does not follow any of our traditions. It is instead a complete denigration of everything this country has stood for previously.

We can quote Minister after Minister in the Government. We can quote the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Secretary of State and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). Before the last election each of them said that they were against a trade deal with the United States which would give us free trade because they saw at that time, not the pressures from the large corporations, not the pressures which have pushed them in the direction they have now taken, but instead they saw clearly the very important need to stand up for this country. They saw the necessity to protect Canadian jobs, to protect Canadian social programs, and to protect the integrity and distinctiveness of this country.

Yet, as soon as they got into power, less than a year after, they were meeting in Quebec City to set in motion with the President of the United States a massive change, a change so comprehensive in this country that it will devastate the potential future of our people, the freedom of our country to be what it should be, the distinctiveness which we have had, and the social programs which have characterized it.

This must be fought by every single Member as hard as they possibly can. I, for one, am proud to say that I will fight it with the greatest possible mechanisms of rejection of the Government's aims that I can possibly muster. I consider that this Party does itself proud by standing up so strongly for that.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The question is on the subamendment. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the subamendment?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Call in the Members.

[Translation]

And the division bells having rung:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne) Order, please! Pursuant to Standing Order 13(4)a), the Chief Opposition Whip has asked me that the division be deferred. Therefore, the recorded vote on the question now before the House is deferred until tomorrow at 6 p.m., when the bells calling the Members shall have sounded for no more than 15 minutes.

[English]

It being 5 o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

* * *

• (1700)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to confirm with the Government the agenda for tomorrow. I take it that it will be the Meech Lake Accord debate. Can we confirm that so we may prepare accordingly?

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, I can confirm to the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition that tomorrow we will be debating the Government's response to the Senate's amendments to the Meech Lake Accord. We expect to continue that through the day. I do not know exactly how many Members my colleagues opposite have to speak, nor do I know how many more we intend to have, other than the Prime Minister will be leading off the debate for us tomorrow.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, in the spirit of co-operation that we have just seen this afternoon, would it be possible to seek some guidance for the Leader of the New Democratic Party. We are starting the debate on Meech Lake with a Leader's day. Presumably the Prime Minister will begin the debate for the Government, to be followed by the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

Would it be appropriate to have an understanding that all three leaders have an opportunity to present their views prior