

the 23 months we have left, take a broader look at the conditions that make Canada what it is.

The New Democratic Party believes there is only one condition. I think that the motion could be broadened and freshened by adding the following. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would want to move an amendment, seconded by my colleague the member for Saint-Boniface, which would read as follows:

[English]

That the motion be amended by deleting everything after the word "federation" and by substituting the following therefor:

such renewal to be based on the following considerations:

(a) the demands on nationhood produced by the globalization of the twenty-first century

(b) the values of Canadian nationhood, including freedom and fairness and equality; a sense of order and justice; the distinct character of Quebec society and the diversity of the provinces; regional diversity; and respect for the collectivities of Canada and

(c) the contemporary constitutional issues of today, including those being raised by Quebec; the issue of Senate reform being raised in the west; and aboriginal issues,

(d) any change in the distribution of powers:

(i) should guarantee the rights and freedoms of citizens;

(ii) should ensure that the two main linguistic communities in this country are maintained and strengthened, with this principle being generously endorsed by all levels of government and with Quebec being recognized as the principal focal point for French life and culture in Canada;

(iii) must guarantee respect for and the growth of the aboriginal peoples;

(iv) should promote both the rights and the growth of cultural communities;

(v) should endeavour to maximize the living and standard of living of Canadians;

(vi) should facilitate the working of the Canadian economic union;

(vii) should ensure, on a national scale, the pursuit of social justice through the sharing of resources between regions and citizens;

(viii) should ensure sovereignty for every government in its respective jurisdiction;

(ix) should take into account the diversity of different regions of the country, including the distinct character of the Quebec society, and should leave to the provinces responsibility for what is not required by the national interest or the best interest of citizens;

Supply

Provided that the adoption of this motion not be considered a vote of no confidence in the government.

• (1510)

I so move and I hope that the NDP will accept this as a friendly amendment.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The Chair will take under advisement the amendment moved by the Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Sherbrooke has the floor.

[English]

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of attention to the speech made by the acting leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

To be quite honest, I must say that I was somewhat optimistic at the beginning of her speech because I sensed that the hon. member was reaching for the high ground in this national debate that has had more than its share of partisanship. I sensed in the beginning of the member's remarks that she was trying to reach for a higher ground.

I think it is fair to say that some of the remarks made by the hon. member were very close to what the Prime Minister of Canada and the leader of my party said in his speech in Buckingham concerning changes and the sense that these changes would have *vis-à-vis* a more competitive Canada in the division of powers.

I am sorry to say though that the tone of the member's speech changed somewhat, but before that happened, I did take note of one important remark that she made.

[Translation]

To make sure that everybody understands how important the speech made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton East in the House today is, Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention a comment which she made and which represents, in my view, quite a significant change in the position of the Liberal Party of Canada in this national debate.

On behalf of her party, the hon. member stated that nothing was sacred anymore in the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments. This represents a complete about face in the Liberal Party of