

Government Orders

While it is extremely important to build on the good things we have, we have to look ahead and see our place in the world. If we look at Canada as it is right now and at the latest survey of the United Nations, we find that Canada has been identified as the number one country in the world in which to live and raise a family.

There is nothing wrong with that. It is something that every single Canadian in every part of our country has to be proud of. It is my wish that one day every Canadian will have the chance not only to visit every part of Canada and to see how magnificent this land is, but also to go abroad for one week or for one day, as a matter of fact, and I would challenge them to tell me that there is any place, anywhere in any part of the world, they could identify as home other than Canada.

I know this because I have travelled from one country to the next and I know that we live in the best country in the world in which to raise a family. I say it and I knew it even before the United Nations came up with their survey because I like many other Canadians immigrated to this land, to this country, because we knew then, we know now and we will always know that the opportunities available to us in Canada would never be available to anyone anywhere else in the world.

For example, when I came to this land I was illiterate—I did not speak French or English—and I was able to build a future. I was able to bring my family and was able to build a future. I look around me and I ask: Where else in the world would I as an immigrant be given the same opportunities I have been given in Canada? Nowhere. I am sure my colleagues from Kingston and the Islands, Calgary and Edmonton would agree with me that this is a land of opportunity.

Why we want to turn around and screw it up, why we want to turn around and sell out the best nation on earth, is beyond me.

I can only speak for my constituents on this issue, but I am not interested in seeing money being distributed to anybody who has anything but the interests of a united, fair and equitable Canada at heart.

I will be supporting the bill with reluctance because there are many technical components in it that have to be addressed. It is my hope that with the expertise of

many members of our caucus, in particular the member for Kingston and the Islands, the House leader will sit down with the member as well as members from the other political parties to iron out those difficulties so we can come up with something that everybody will be proud of.

On a final note, the government has to keep in mind one thing. This is an issue on which every member of this House who believes in Canada has to work collectively on. It must remain a non-partisan issue in our minds. We cannot play partisan politics on this issue. Otherwise we will lose a lot.

The Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the New Democratic Party and the Prime Minister have to share the same platform so that they can promote Canada, the unity of Canada. As well, every member of this House has to be given the opportunity to do the same. We must because it is our duty and responsibility to do so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 4.45 o'clock p.m., pursuant to order made earlier this day, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 78(3) it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the second reading stage of the bill now before the House.

The question is on the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Call in the members.

The House divided on the amendment, which was negated on the following division: