

Business of Supply

There are some minuscule matters which are well known to the President of the Privy Council and to the House leader for the New Democratic Party, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), that would be subject to some discussion in order to get us along the road. For instance, there is the question of how we would deal with the situation in which a minister might have completed his examination by the House prior to the end of, let us say, the first day period or prior to the end of the second day period, and what might happen then.

This motion does provide the essence of the agreement, to establish in a different way some of the things that we would like to have established. It follows generally the spirit of the amendment that was put by the hon. member for St. John's West, except for the unlimited time clause. We are prepared to accept the motion on that basis. In paragraph 3 on page 2 there is reference to 12 a.m., and I would like to make it clear that it was never part of the discussions that we would run all night until 12 noon. The 12 a.m. refers to 12 midnight, just so there is no doubt.

We have made some progress. We accept the terms and are prepared to live with them. Of course, as we go along the road outlined by this road map, I am satisfied that any questions raised can be resolved by discussion in good faith.

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to commend my two friends, the other House leaders, on their willingness yesterday to have that day's debate adjourned so that we could have the consultations which have taken place since that time. May I, as one who watched these two gentlemen give and take—I was the innocent third party as it were—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Innocent!

Mr. Knowles:—commend each of them for the give and take atmosphere and for bargaining in good faith. It was a commendable exercise, and I offer my commendation to my two fellow House leaders.

We have come up with a good arrangement for this unusual situation. I believe that it meets the points which were pressed by both sides. I am also hopeful that, as an experiment, it might give us some guidance for further thought about how we handle the estimates in 1981-82, 1991-92, and so on. All told, it is a good agreement, and we are prepared to give it our support. I trust that we can now make it a House order.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to point out that I am pleased that both my colleagues are satisfied with the agreement and I hope we will continue to work in a spirit of co-operation so that on one hand the proceedings of the House will be efficient and, on the other hand, the rights of the opposition will be respected.

So that is a fine example we are giving today of the agreement which can be reached when we negotiate together and in good faith, and we will continue to work, in that spirit.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): As I understand it, the motion put forward by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) yesterday has been withdrawn by unanimous consent, the order relating thereto has been discharged, a new motion has been substituted with the unanimous consent of the House, and hon. members are now prepared to give unanimous consent to making this new motion an order. Do I have agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At 6.08 p.m. the House took recess.

● (2000)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING EXTENSION OF PROGRAM PERIOD

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Axworthy, that Bill C-19, to amend the Employment Tax Credit Act, be read the second time and referred to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes that I spoke before the dinner time adjournment I put on record the sad state of our economy, the fact that unemployment is close to one million, according to figures published by Statistics Canada and that our rate of inflation and the cost of living in 1980 are likely to increase by 10 per cent, according to the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). We are facing both high unemployment and a sharp increase in the cost of living in 1980.

I also put on the record the assessment of a number of people who write regularly in Canadian newspapers on economic matters, of the speech made by the Minister of Finance some days ago during the throne speech debate. At that time I said the government has offered no programs, no proposals, and no solutions to the problems we face. Now I want to put on the record the criticisms which the spokesman for the official opposition before the last election, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray), made in the short period when the Conservative party formed the government. I shall compare what they said then with what they are saying now. The party to which I belong has often been accused of promising people things which cannot be implemented, and we have been told we can promise those things because we are not likely to form a government in the near future.