

Routine Proceedings

cesses to deal with the outstanding business that remains between Canada and its aboriginal people.

I suggest that an appropriate way to kick off this decade after a proclamation is made is to invite the native leadership of Canada to select among their number either a native leader or elder that they believe has the stature to make an address to the joint Houses of Parliament to outline to parliamentarians and to the people of Canada the hopes and aspirations of the aboriginal people of this country and what they would like to see dealt with. It has been suggested that someone of the stature of Georges Erasmus be invited to the House of Commons to present, on behalf of all aboriginal groups in Canada, a statement of the hopes and aspirations of the aboriginal people for Canada and their relations to Canada in the future.

We have had a number of heads of state address this Parliament since I have become a member of Parliament. We have had the King of Jordan address our Parliament. We have had the President of the State of Israel. However, it does not necessarily have to be restricted to a head of state. We have also had Nelson Mandela, the great African leader of the African National Congress, come to address Parliament. The one group that has yet to be recognized by Parliament in that way is the aboriginal people of this country. I think it would be appropriate to establish a decade of aboriginal people, a decade in which we commit ourselves to resolving that unfinished business, to ask the aboriginal leadership of Canada to put up one of their number, a leader or an elder, who will address the joint Houses of Parliament and outline to us their hopes and aspirations as to how they would like to participate in this country of Canada.

I think that the first thing that Parliament can do in order to demonstrate its good faith to the aboriginal people of this country, coming out of the problems that we have experienced through the last summer and in terms of the failure of the Constitutional Accord and the armed confrontations at Oka and Châteauguay, is to vote concurrence in this motion which outlines the aboriginal agenda for Canada and sets in motion a decade of activity which will complete the unfinished business between ourselves and the aboriginal people of this country.

Mrs. Collins: Madam Speaker, I wish to indicate that an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Order 78(1) and 78(2) with respect to an allocation of time to the report stage and third reading stage of Bill C-44, an Act respecting the Hibernia Development Project and to amend certain acts in relation thereto, and, under the provisions of Standing Order 78(3), I give notice of my intention to move a motion at the next sitting of the House for the purpose of allotting a specified number of days or hours for the consideration and disposal at both stages of the bill.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments? Resuming debate. We are now, after the Minister has given the notice, back to questions and comments following the speech by the hon. member for Comox—Alberni. On a point of order, the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Mr. Allmand: Madam Speaker, when you called questions and comments, the hon. minister got up on a point of order with respect to Bill C-44, I believe, and therein the confusion. Are you awaiting comments on the point of order or are we now back to the matter which was before the House?

Madam Deputy Speaker: Of course I am not calling questions or comments on a notice that was given by the minister on a point of order which was quite in order.

We are now returning to the 10 minute period of questions or comments following the speech by the hon. member for Comox—Alberni on concurrence in the report. No one rose on questions or comments. Is the hon. member arising on questions or comments?

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. member for Comox—Alberni (Mr. Skelly), who pointed out that Mr. Erasmus should be invited to testify before this House, if he would have any objection to hearing the testimony of native chiefs or leaders from Quebec as well. I wonder because I read in this morning's papers that there is no consensus among native leaders. For instance, Mr. White Duck, from Maniwaki, criticized sharply Mr. Erasmus this morning. This cast a totally different light on the Oka crisis. Would he have a problem with Quebec native leaders testifying before us on what is happening in Quebec?