

Supply

If you continue with your lyrical speeches—since I have known you, all your speeches have been lyrical—nothing concrete has ever been put on the table and I am not surprised by your arguments—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I remind the hon. member that comments must be addressed to the Chair and not directly to the member. I was not indicating that your time was up, but I also wanted to tell you that your comments must deal with the speech made by the previous speaker.

The parliamentary secretary has the floor, very briefly.

Mr. Lincoln: Madam Speaker, that is not very fair. The Bloc member took up all my time. Am I not entitled to two minutes?

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): There must be unanimous consent of the House to extend your speaking time.

[English]

Do we have unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Hermanson: Madam Speaker, we would also like to be able to ask a short question following the hon. member's answer.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I am sorry, I am afraid we cannot extend the debate indefinitely. The parliamentary secretary has about 30 or 45 seconds.

Mr. Lincoln: It just shows the arrogance of the Bloc Quebecois. He accuses me of being a lyrical speaker, a speaker lyrique.

[Translation]

I would rather be a lyrical speaker than a bitter one. I would rather be lyrical than always try to pick quarrels with all those who do not agree with me. The financial institutions which denounce the Parti Quebecois do not have the right to make political statements. We must remember that. According to the hon. member, they do not have the right to make political statements. The Bank of Montreal does not count as they are anglos. The same goes for the Royal Bank.

Mr. Loubier: No, no.

Mr. Lincoln: I did not interrupt the hon. member. He should at least have the courtesy of listening to others. It just shows their arrogance; they never want to listen to others.

[English]

Mr. Hermanson: I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. I wonder if I might have the consent of the House, as I asked earlier, to ask a short question. The other hon. member took so much time and made a statement rather than asking a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I am afraid it is impossible to extend the hon. member's time. If you ask a question there must be a response.

Do we have unanimous consent to extend the time for a question and response?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster): Thank you, Madam Chairman. I will be brief.

The hon. member in his statement mentioned that the Bloc is not correct in suggesting that if Quebec separated from Canada everything would be heaven. I agree with his statement.

However there are a lot of Canadians both in Quebec and outside Quebec who are concerned because our economy may be going to the other place. I am not talking about the Senate when I say "the other place".

• (1250)

I wonder what the hon. member might offer in the way of some economic hope that would make all of us want to stay in Canada and have none of us worry about going to that other place.

Mr. Lincoln: Madam Speaker, very briefly I refer the hon. member to a headline today in *Quorum*: "Economy outpaces Martin's budget forecast". Canada will have growth of 3.9 per cent estimated in the coming year. We have taken over a country with a very bad economic forecast. We have committed ourselves to reduce the budget to 3 per cent of GNP within three years. We are going to do this. Things are going to get better under the Liberal government.

Mr. Stephen Harper (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, I am delighted to rise to speak to the motion by the hon. member for Calgary Southwest that we affirm our desire for unity as a federal state. Specifically I would like to address the clause of the motion that we affirm the equality and uniqueness of all our citizens and provinces.

The equality of citizens is at the heart of a fundamental principle of democracy and one that I put to members we have drifted from in recent years, at least some would say the elite have drifted from as a country toward a concept called group rights.

In the Charlottetown accord we had this concept becoming more and more a proposal to entrench that kind of concept in our Constitution, where rights of citizens are determined not regardless of race, language, culture or gender but because of them. This commentary, this observation is not simply my own. The former leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Trudeau, noticed this during that period when he talked about the hierarchy of rights embedded in the accord.