

Summer Recess

now told that we should stay here to work. Name me, Mr. Speaker, one government who has done as much as we have done during the past 15 months. I only have to mention the Bank Act, the Canadian Constitution, the development of the prebuild, the purchase of F-18 planes, the manufacture of trucks, the complete re-equipment of the army, the consideration of Bill C-48 in committee. Those 15 months were well filled. What was the record of the previous government after 9 months in power?

It was a highly visible record that had consequences lately. Everything connected with Canada was affected. Loto-Canada was destroyed. Petro-Canada was going to be sold. They are against Canada Day, what they want is Dominion Day or Steinberg day. Well really, it is unthinkable. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to reconsider his position and his views. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to act as a juvenile, to play that mindless game without any planning or thought for the future, he should resign. I know some Progressive Conservative backbenchers who are deep thinkers and would make a major contribution to their country.

If he wants to carry on in the same way, I ask his colleagues to open their eyes. A country is not built in a day, Mr. Speaker, with party leaders who do not work for the future of their fellow-citizens, but merely to get some publicity out of major events occurring in this country. That is not the way to work. And if that two-third leader is not capable of making the Progressive Conservative Party regain its former strength at a time when its leaders came here to put forward ideas, then let him retire! There are backbenchers in that party who know where they are going. I could name a few, but I do not want to create problems. And if he does not have the guts to do so, let the Progressive Conservative members do their jobs. They were elected in their constituencies to give the people who elected them the leader they deserve. It is as simple as that.

I would not like to forget my friends from the Non Development Party and No Decision Party, I do not know how to call them. We had another nice experience today, yesterday or today, we do not know what time it is exactly, everything goes so fast, so many things happened after a fantastic job done, the honourable member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) decided to introduce an adjournment motion in order apparently to force us to come back next week. This is unbelievable. I asked myself, as a young politician, what can motivate a party to bring such a ridiculous idea when we know that everybody needs us in our constituencies. Just like that, at the last moment. I looked for an answer, and I found one I will share with you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure it is the right one. Because the newspapers gave somewhat more attention to the Progressive Conservative Party because, as I said, of some type of hijacking, they decided to join in that same hijacking in order to get some publicity too. But there must be an end somewhere. I appreciate that the Leader of the New Democratic Party spends his time travelling between El Salvador

and Canada, but at some point we will have to call him a bull rather than by his name. At some point we have to look at what is going on in this country. Canadian people have needs. I have some work to do. In fact, the 80,000 people I represent are my direct responsibility. I must go and visit 22 municipalities, meet their leaders.

An hon. Member: What a responsibility!

Mr. Gimaïel: That being so, if I am kept here simply because the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. leader of the second party of the opposition have decided that the House will sit longer, I feel that up to a point it is unfair towards the people, because if I lived here all year round as they do, if I did not go back to my riding frequently like them, then I would understand. I would tell myself, "they see my face often enough on TV, they see me often in the newspapers, I shall be re-elected anyway; it really does not matter." We can stay around longer and keep on talking; it is quite pleasant before the cameras; all's well, the cameras are there. But the truth of the matter is very different, because some hon. members in this House have to go back home every weekend, and work there, find out what their people think, find out what their needs are, and come back here and fight for those needs, to do their work and forge ahead.

In the last few months, the opposition parties, and specially the Progressive Conservative Party have gained some kind of momentum. If I dared, I would call it a type of constipation, in that every time we are about to achieve results with a bill, there is a hijacking or a filibuster akin to the juvenile reaction that moves pupils to take pleasure in disturbing the teacher in school when he is writing on the blackboard. The idea is about the same. No logic, no basic principles, no lofty ideas are put forward. Just a bit of BS. All that so they can say later on: We have done very well; we have managed to slow down the government. I say such actions are childish, immature.

An hon. Member: How true!

Mr. Gimaïel: Canadians deserve a better opposition than that.

It will have to be done one of these days because, if we do not find a solution, Canadians will open their eyes and realize that when an opposition party does not do its job in the House of Commons, in their ridings and elsewhere, the whole society pays for it. I now return to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the former Prime Minister. True enough it is not interesting to become Leader of the Opposition again after having been the head of the country. But the fact remains that something very important is attached to that position and I hope the Leader of the Opposition will draw some inspiration from the long line of men who preceded him. I saw that same leader visit my riding in Chicoutimi and sign a petition sponsored by the Parti Québécois in support of sovereignty-association, against what was going on here in Ottawa. It is