

S.O. 29

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must rule that this is not a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: I will certainly raise a question of privilege. If my hon. friend reads *Hansard* tomorrow, he will see most likely that I was recorded all night as saying: "Mike, Mike". I was addressing myself to him, asking him to shut up, as I do now. All night I have been here and all night I have listened to every speech, so much so that I will quote from every single one. I intended to say only a few words, but I will now take my 20 minutes and if the Hon. Member keeps interrupting, he will get more.

I was impressed by the speech of the Hon. Member for Halifax West from whom I learned a lot. It gave me great pleasure to listen to the exceptional speech tonight of the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker). He was so good that even the Leader of the New Democratic Party came to shake his hand and congratulate him. Everyone who listened to that Hon. Member, and to the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall), the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin), the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson), and others, was extremely impressed. The Hon. Member for Carleton—Charlotte (Mr. McCain) said we were not present. Well, I must have ears which can hear outside of the House because I listened to his complete speech when he said we were not present. The same applies to the Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso (Mr. O'Neil) who said we Liberals participated in the debate tonight strictly for votes. I did not know that Mr. Peckford and Mr. Buchanan were Liberal, unless they switched allegiance today.

An Hon. Member: They were not even in debate tonight.

Mr. Prud'homme: The Hon. Member for Carleton—Charlotte said the Liberals were eliminated and our lack of interest in the fisheries eliminated us. It seems that he is not aware of the results of the last election. We were eliminated almost all across the country, not only in the Maritimes. But it will be interesting for the Hon. Member to know that the place we had the most success was in the Atlantic Provinces. Seven Members were elected. That represents 22 per cent of the Members there. Of the 250 Members left in Canada, we only took 13 per cent, so we did rather well, especially in Newfoundland which is the subject of the debate tonight. Three Members of the Liberal Party were elected out of seven.

The Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso keeps talking. I must say to the Hon. Member who interrupted me earlier—and I have seen so many Hon. Members in and out that we are used to a one-term Member, and I hope that this would not apply to him—that if he keeps being disagreeable, as he seems to be tonight, he may be a one-term Member. Therefore, I do not think we should pay much attention to what he is saying.

The real reason I want to participate has nothing to do, really, with what has been said tonight. I wanted to listen

because for so many years I have listened, and this is a part of Canada which is of great interest to me.

I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, that someone is going to get it, and it is not going to be me, if those Hon. Members keep interrupting. I have listened politely for 23 years to arguments. We may disagree but at least we listen to each other.

What is my main motivation?

[Translation]

You know I am a Francophone, a French-Canadian, that my heritage is French and that every time we have a debate in which one of our two mother countries is involved, whether it be Great Britain which gave me its political institutions—

[English]

You may laugh at that if you like.

[Translation]

But my political institutions come from Great Britain, respect them and I think they are probably among the best political institutions in the world. That is what Great Britain means to me. France gave me my cultural blood, what I am today. That is why when we have a debate where either both or one of our mother countries is involved, a debate that might arouse feelings among some people, feelings we would rather not see aroused, we must be very sensitive and realize what the debate is really about. I was delighted to hear one or two Members say that it was not engraved in stone. It was a consensus, not an agreement.

I have been listening very closely, and there is one thing I learned from the debate this evening, and I say this for the benefit of my friends at the French Embassy who will certainly be reading the proceedings. Anyone who knows anything about international politics realizes that this evening's debate will be followed very carefully and read by Ottawa's Department of External Affairs and by the French Embassy to find out what the mood was in Parliament during a debate involving this country and France. I hope they understand it would not have been in the best interests of either Canada or France if either country were to feel it had come out the winner.

I agree with the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby) that the problem has been going on for some time. It is very difficult to find a solution. I agree. I learned something from his speech. I am one of those who after 23 years, naively perhaps, still listen to the speeches of these Members because we come from all regions of Canada and we can learn something by listening to others. I did learn something this evening. I am glad to say in French that I did learn a lot from my colleagues from the Atlantic Provinces. But I know as well that if one of the two sides—Canada or Canadians, and the French—were to gain a lot from these negotiations, one or the other will inevitably become quite frustrated. Experience has taught us that all boundary problems are always potentially very dangerous and very explosive because this kind of difficulties can indeed have dire consequences. We know that. There are in excess of 100 boundary problems in the world, Mr. Speaker,