

Trade Policies

smooth conversion into a state of uncertainty and chaos. Delay in conversion for the sake of delay is nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

May I have 30 seconds more, Mr. Speaker, to complete my remarks?

If there is one area in the conversion process that has not quite met expectations, it is the area of public awareness. While indeed public support for metrication has increased greatly over the past few years, the Metric Commission has perhaps been unsuccessful in convincing Canadians of the need for the metric system. It has focused too much on the mechanics of metrication at the expense of explaining the reason and why it is necessary to convert to the metric system.

I support the minister in his desire to see a more effective program explaining why Canada has gone metric, but I strongly dispute the notion that the progress of the program must be delayed to do the explaining. I urge the minister to adopt a more enlightened opinion of the capacity of Canadians to convert to the metric system and enjoy its benefits.

[Translation]

Somebody once said that had God wanted humanity to use the metric system there would have been ten disciples. In answer to that, Mr. Speaker, I would remind the House that there exists a document called the Ten Commandments. This document still influences world history.

[English]

In conclusion, I urge this government to leave the metric system alone, to let the conversion process continue as has been planned by Canadian business and Canadian industry. Give Canadians credit for their adaptability and let us get the job done. Let us not let Canada be the odd man out in the metric world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the hon. member wish to put a question to the hon. member for Timmins-Chapleau (Mr. Chenier)?

[Translation]

Would the hon. member for Timmins-Chapleau accept a question from the hon. member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling)?

[English]

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a very simple question. The automobile I drive has tires that take 32 pounds per square inch. I should like to know how many kilopascals that is because the service station to which I go has a pump that is in kilopascals, but there is no conversion chart. Could the hon. member tell me how many kilopascals equal 30 pounds per square inch?

Mr. Chenier: Mr. Speaker, I am a new member of Parliament and I will reply to the hon. member in the way that I hear it every day now that the new government is in power—I suggest that the government put it on their next agenda for review.

[Mr. Chenier.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pepin: Yes, let us have a commission on that one.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1510)

[Translation]

Mr. Fabien Roy (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, we have before us a motion introduced by a member of the official opposition which reads as follows:

That this House regrets the inability of the government to conduct and develop effective Canadian industrial and international trade policies.

Mr. Speaker, that motion contains two admissions: the first one concerns those who governed the country for 16 years, those who put that motion forward. If I interpret correctly what I heard from my colleague from Ottawa-Carleton, they think that Canada urgently needs to be straightened out economically. Canada is facing horrible difficulties. Canadians are worried. In short, we do not know what tomorrow has in store for us. That is what the mover of the motion just admitted.

Second, he admits that the new government has not yet taken its responsibilities and has not yet submitted a program to the House. I listened carefully to the speech of my hon. colleague.

Mr. Pepin: Was the hon. member present when I spoke?

Mr. Roy (Beauce): I was here and I was very careful not to interrupt the hon. member. I would ask him to do the same because I have a few things to say. Mr. Speaker, when I look at the number of members of the official opposition present in the House, and I see they are three or four, I understand them. They are not indeed all devoid of intelligence. Neither are they all devoid of memory because they remember that yesterday they were the ones who had to run the business of this country.

Mr. Speaker, that kind of motion is absolutely indecent. I really thought that the House of Commons was more serious than that. When we have seen here, after 16 years of Liberal government, the Canadian standard of living drop, lowered from the second down to the sixth place in the world, at a time when the economic growth of most other countries is being stunted by a lack of resources, I say it is indecent to get that kind of result when you have been governing the country with the greatest potential in the world. It is indecent that the only legacy of the former government is an economy going adrift and an unemployment rate which has doubled itself. After May 22, when we were elected to represent our constituents in every riding and in every province of Canada, we inherited an inflation rate that has tripled during that administrative period, combined with a fourfold increase in government spending, a deficit 14 times larger and a bureaucracy so eager to put its heavy hand on everything that it ended up by