

Extension of Sittings

riding of Montmorency—Orléans. My electors told me something about those benefits when they gave a majority of almost 20,000 votes, that is six times as strong as that of my predecessor. That makes me very proud and once again, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to explain those facts to you and to all my colleagues.

• (2200)

[*English*]

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, I gave my maiden speech almost 25 years ago in the British Columbia legislature. However, my riding is different now and I am in a different place. I doubt very much that I will take part in a Throne Speech debate in the near future, so I thought I would take this opportunity, as others have before me, to briefly introduce my riding.

Had I the opportunity to draw the boundaries for the area I would like to represent, I would draw exactly the boundaries of the riding of Nanaimo—Cowichan as they presently exist. It is where I have made my home all of my life.

The area depends upon logging, fishing, and tourism. I have worked in logging camps, done some fishing, have farmed in the area, and currently have a chartered accounting firm that I will have to do something about when the House recesses and before we come back together again.

I started campaigning on May 2, the day after I was nominated by the Party. I campaigned for almost seven months and I enjoyed it. I travelled around the riding and met many people, all of whom seemed to know me. I knew a few of them, and many of them knew various of my relatives. One of them had worked in a local coal mine with my father some years ago. It was like coming home and meeting people. Although not all of them I knew, it made me feel like we were family all together. It was a good seven months and a good campaign.

There was one theme that kept recurring during the campaign. At the doorstep when the people wanted to talk, they always stated that we have to get rid of both of them. They did not use the title Prime Minister, they used the surname, which I know I am not to use in this place, but the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and Vander Zalm. The people used the two of them together, it did not matter which came first. Both had to go.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stupich: The other theme that came up was the free trade deal. It was not that the people were all totally against it. The majority were worried and concerned. They did not know whether they should be opposed to it or support it. On balance they were a little afraid. They felt that they had not been told enough about it, had not had an opportunity to hear enough or read enough about it. They were puzzled, concerned, worried, and inclined to vote against the Conservative candidate because on balance they thought they had better not take a chance on supporting the free trade deal. I went along with that argument very nicely. I enjoyed that campaigning.

One of the reasons I came to the House was that I was very worried about the free trade deal, wanted to oppose it, and felt the best way of accomplishing that would be to become a Member of Parliament, take part in the discussions during the campaign, take part in the discussions here, discussions that will not end when the motion or the Bill is passed but will go on for many years to come. It will be a continuing discussion in Canada, and I hope that we will gain something from that long term discussion. I wanted to be part of that, particularly in the beginning. That is one of the main reasons I came here. I wanted to discuss it in this period of one week or two weeks, whatever period we will be here before the new year. I came here today expecting to be speaking about the free trade deal.

I notice that other Members have talked about the stalling and delaying tactics on the part of the New Democratic Party. The New Democrats have stated from the beginning that we want to have the maximum amount of time possible to talk about free trade. We did not devise the various procedural motions and discussions that have taken place. We have taken part in them, but none of them have been at our prompting. Government Members have raised these motions, and one has to wonder if they did it on purpose because, as was the case before the election was called, as was the case during the election, and as is still the case, the Government does not want too much said about free trade in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stupich: They are afraid that if the people hear too much about it, then there will be more worry, concern, and opposition to the free trade deal that has been engineered. Therefore, we spend our time talking about procedure.