

better time to speak about my riding and the importance of my being here representing those people as we consider today the reforms which are being discussed in the House, reforms which will make other Members of the House and myself more effective Members.

Miramichi gets its name from the Micmac Indians. It was the name of a river and it is now used to describe the entire valley region. Today, it is the oldest Indian place name still in use in Atlantic Canada. Natural resources form the backbone of the Miramichi economy. The region depends greatly on the forests and wood-related industries for its livelihood. In recognition of this fact the Miramichi was named Canada's forestry capital in 1980.

It is not just forests that comprise the economic fibre of the area. There is agriculture, including vast areas of peat moss bog, commercial and sports fishing, and also a most important defence establishment. The Miramichi region is a gateway to Atlantic Canada, the United States and the rest of the world with its transportation links of rail, air and sea systems. The communities of this beautiful area are peopled with the descendants of English, Acadian, Irish, Scottish and Indian stock who have worked and lived in harmony since the area was first settled. They look forward to making their contribution to the province and to Canada.

I will just mention the names of two well-known people from the area. They are Beaverbrook, who took his name from a small community on the Miramichi, and Cunard. Lord Beaverbrook wanted to be known as Lord Miramichi, but his critics said that too many would make fun of him if he were to take the name. However, now that the Miramichi becomes more prominent and better known, more people will know how to pronounce that Indian word—Miramichi. As well, the Cunard shipping line, the builders of the *Queen Elizabeth II* and the *Queen Mary*, got its start on the banks of the mighty Miramichi.

Referring back to the matter at hand, I would again mention the words of the Hon. Member for St. John's East who said that what will come out of the reform process is a Parliament which follows neither the traditional model of Westminster nor the Congressional system but one which will be uniquely Canadian. What encourages me most about that statement is that this reform is not something that is being driven by one side of the House. Earlier, I mentioned consensus. I would like to refer to the contributions made by members of the Opposition and, in particular, the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie), and the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner). Yesterday, the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior made an eloquent statement in support of reform. He was an alternate member of the committee and was most active even though he was not permanent. This type of support and spirit from these experienced Members of Parliament will give us a Parliament which, indeed, will be uniquely Canadian.

With respect to the report I would like to say a few words on the subject of committees since this is where a private Member

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should have the opportunity of real input and influence. The adoption of the recommendations of reform of the committee system will surely make the words of Professor Gillies, who appeared before the committee as a witness, ring true. He said that the one place where the problems of Canada can be dealt with is before the committees of Parliament. A reduction in the number of members in most if not all of the standing committees will indeed enhance the work of committees, giving individual members greater input, interest and a sense of participation. It may seem like a small item to mention the meeting times of committees and the changes which will be introduced as well. It is proposed that the standing committees sit at times other than when the House is sitting. Indeed, Members are torn between their responsibilities in the Chamber and in committee. We have all been faced with too many demands and too little time.

With respect to the issue of public recording, this is an area in which I initially had some doubt. I had reservations with respect to putting cameras and audio equipment into committee rooms because we have seen all too often what can happen in the House during Question Period. One sometimes questions the seriousness of Members when they stand up and pose questions to members of the Cabinet. I hope that the introduction of cameras into committee will give Canadians a true appreciation of the work which is done there, the importance which Members place on that work, and not just provide an opportunity for certain Members to grandstand. Having said that, I am confident, as we have heard support from both sides of the House with respect to reform, that people will take it seriously. The use of parliamentary committees to review draft legislation before second reading would indeed make Members more familiar with the contents of a Bill before it receives approval in principle.

I remind Hon. Members of the expression: Many are called but few are chosen. These measures are being brought forward in an effort to make not just Parliament more meaningful and more effective but also the role of the private Member. His goal will be not just to sit one day at the Cabinet table in order to achieve a sense of accomplishment, but rather as a Member who plays a key role on a committee which will satisfy his sense of self-worth. With these measures, which I support whole-heartedly, I look forward to the months and years ahead so that I may sit here in my place as the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1710)

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Jardine) whether he has any comments to make on the decision to allow the Speaker to eject an Hon. Member for up to five days?

Mr. Jardine: Mr. Speaker, I do not mind answering that question put by the Hon. Member because I respect the traditions of the House, little as I know about it, I have to admit, in the few months I have been here. In respecting the