

provincial jurisdictions like the province of Alberta, for instance.

Therefore I think the bill before the House does not respond to the needs of the nineties. People today want to have input into what is happening in this country. They are fed up with all this constitutional talk, this poker game that the government is playing with the people of Canada.

As time progresses we have to look seriously at what options we should have. We have a country that is beautiful but we do not negotiate with the partners. If the Bloc Quebecois, for instance, is representative of the province of Quebec, it should have a say in this issue. It should be invited to committees. It should be invited to participate. Otherwise our country is going to fall apart.

The oldest democracies in the world like Switzerland have referendums. Those referendums can be initiated by the electorate and are binding on parliament and on the government. But it has to be a field in the jurisdiction of the federal, provincial or municipal government.

Somebody mentioned that Switzerland was slow in progressing in certain areas, for instance the rights of certain people, but it had the referendum and it passed.

The people have to have the last word in any government. The problem in Canada as I see it today is that we have been governed from above. We have not been governed from the people. Members come to this House and are ruled by old traditional rules of the 19th century where even a member cannot address another member across the floor. He has to address the Chair. It is not like in the Senate, in the other House where a member can talk across to another member. They were the lords. They were the upper crust. In this House we are simply the commoners and a commoner cannot talk to another commoner across the way. He has to address the Chair. This is an old rule, a rule of the 19th century. I am surprised socialist members have not asked for changes to this rule. They seem to like it.

An hon. member: Who cares?

Mr. Kindy: Some NDP member asks: "Who cares?"

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An hon. member: What difference does it make?

Mr. Kindy: What difference does it make? They have difficulty understanding that if we cannot talk across to a member or we cannot address him like they can in the Congress of the United States or even in the Canadian Senate we are not full members of this House.

An hon. member: What?

Mr. Kindy: We are still in the 19th century where the Speaker represents somebody we have to bow to. If we want changes, we have to have in the first place a referendum that is binding. Second there should be initiative. It means that people can initiate a referendum on something they disagree with. We should be open, as I said, so that everybody in the House can be represented on a committee. I as an Independent and other members who are Independent are not invited to sit on committees. The Bloc Quebecois has nine members who are not allowed to sit on constitutional committees affecting the province of Quebec.

If I am right, the polls indicate that the Bloc Quebecois probably represents 60 per cent of the voters on the French speaking side of the population. Those voters do not have a voice in this House and I believe it is not just.

If we want to build a country, we have to be able to speak in the House and be able to represent. Then, naturally, there would be no conflicts and we could resolve the constitutional issues.

The province of Alberta has just introduced a bill on binding referenda. I am sure that the premier of Alberta, Mr. Getty, will represent faithfully the feelings of Albertans. One of the reasons he is going to represent them is that he is a firm believer western Canadians have been shafted by the system that exists right now.

If an election is held in Canada, before it reaches the border of Manitoba the cards have been played and we know who is going to be the government. This is why we need an equal and effective Senate. This triple-E Senate is necessary to maintain Confederation. Whether it is Atlantic Canada or whether it is western Canada, it has to have input in central government.

I want to conclude by saying that the bill before us, Bill C-81 which is called a referendum bill, is really not a referendum bill. It is a bill simply to poll people. It is not binding. It will simply indicate the feeling of the people