

Extension of Sittings

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Well, if your colleagues would leave the room, I would be able to see you standing up. Now that I have recognized you, would you please state your point of order.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I hope you are not commenting on my height.

I hope that the Hon. Minister will not intentionally mislead the House and Canadians by saying the people decided in favour of free trade.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Nunziata: The fact is that the people—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Minister.

Mr. Lewis: I will repeat the quotation. It is from the *Ottawa Citizen* of November 23, 1988. "Liberal Leader John Turner said Tuesday his Party will not block free trade legislation. The people have decided". That is his quote. When can I do? It is his quote.

I want to give equal time to the Leader of the New Democratic Party because the day after the people decided, there were some quotes that should be put on the record. "The people of Canada have taken a decision and now Mr. Mulroney has the right to continue with his free trade legislation", Broadbent said". That is from the *Montreal Gazette* of November 23, 1988. It gets better. *The Globe and Mail*: "He conceded that the anti-free trade forces had been decisively defeated". "The Canadian people have taken a decision and Mr. Mulroney certainly has the right to continue with passage of free trade".

A lot of people have forgotten the word "churlish", but not the Leader of the New Democratic Party. He said "It would be churlish and inappropriate to say something should be done about that law at this stage". Churlish. So here we are. I know we have had some procedural manoeuvring, but I suggest to my colleagues opposite that we proceed to debate this motion. I can give an undertaking, if my colleagues opposite want—and I am not suggesting closure of this debate. I know my hon. friend from Ottawa Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) is ready to pounce. But I would suggest, given that the Chair has decided the motion is in order, that if my colleagues opposite wish to curtail the debate, that if everyone does not want to debate this—I was going to say "*ad nauseam*"—at length, then we would be prepared to vote on this immediately. We can then get on to expedite what the Leaders of both Opposition

Parties have said they want to do. They want to let us get on with the legislation. Why do we not get on with debate on the legislation?

Mr. Gauthier: Bad case.

Mr. Lewis: Would that not make sense to my hon. friend?

Mr. Riis: This is dictatorial, that is why.

Mr. Lewis: I suggest to the House that given all those quotes, all those deathless quotes from the Opposition about how we had the right to pass our legislation, that we get on with the debate on this motion, wrap it up as quickly as possible, and if we wrap it up before one o'clock, we can introduce the free trade legislation at three o'clock and get on with the debate. Surely, that is what we want. Surely, that is what we want to decide. Let us get on to the debate on the Bill.

In the alternative, we can debate this and eventually come to a vote. But if my hon. friends opposite want to debate the Bill rather than this motion, why not vote on it immediately?

Mr. Harvard: I rise on a point of order. I am a freshman MP and I am just wondering whether it is fair to a new rookie like me to have to listen to this kind of drivel.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: It is a fair comment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Minister.

Mr. Lewis: My hon. friend opposite has certainly picked up the natural arrogance of the Liberal Party very quickly.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: They used to be the natural governing Party. Now they are the natural arrogant Party. I do not know exactly what "drivel" he was referring to. I referred to several quotes from his Leader. Which of the quotes from his Leader did he consider to be the highest amount of drivel? Does he want me to repeat them?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: I can quote from the *Toronto Sun*: "We let the people decide and the people have decided", Turner told reporters". "Having stated our case, we will let the matter proceed". Is that the drivel you were referring to, Sir?