

*Ontario Representation*

there was not much use fighting any longer because I could see that we were not going to get the 29 seats.

This is not a private member's bill; the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) is responsible for this mess, and if I had known that the government was going to bring in a bill to upset what had been decided on and passed by parliament, then I can tell the House that I would have fought much harder and longer to sustain the demand for 29, which would have been a little closer to justice for British Columbia.

Let hon. members not forget—and this may be an argument for the NDP—that we have only six seats in the Senate. So my province is under-represented in this institution in every way.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Do not expect us to cry over that.

**Mr. Johnston:** I am amazed—and here I come to the most crucial point of all—how the President of the Treasury Board can bring this bill into parliament at a time when the government pretends to be exercised over national unity.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Johnston:** That is the mark of shame, of disgrace, of folly and downright silliness so far as this bill is concerned. We set up extra parliamentary commissions, celebrate Dominion Day by another name at the cost of millions of dollars, and are doing any number of things for the sake of national unity. Yet the government brings in a bill which strikes at the core of national unity and endeavours to separate in representation in this Chamber the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec. As a British Columbian who believes passionately in a country from sea to sea, I find that utterly unacceptable. The government is engaging in this paltry exercise when only a few

days of this session are left, and pretends it wants to get the immigration bill through the House, along with several others.

**An hon. Member:** And we will.

**Mr. Paproski:** They are cowards and traitors.

**Mr. Johnston:** I cannot understand why we have not heard from the members of la belle province over there.

[*Translation*]

Where is the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont (Mr. Joyal) and where is the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Duclos)? How can hon. members from Quebec vote for that bill? They cannot.

[*English*]

They can't go home and say that they let the cause of national unity down. Because this bill will be a symbol of what this government, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and the President of the Treasury Board care about national unity. Better to have brought in a bill on the national anthem, which I would have supported. I was on that committee in the Twenty-Seventh Parliament which reported unanimously, but the bill has never been presented to the House. It will not be necessary for the government to bring in a bill on the national anthem because this bill will be the symbol, will be the sign, will be the word indicating how much this government really cares about national unity.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Johnston:** May I call it six o'clock?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order. It being six o'clock p.m. this House stands adjourned until two o'clock p.m. tomorrow, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 6 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.