

*Supply**[English]*

Under the circumstances the Chair must rule the proposed amendment is not valid within our rules. Briefly, the reasons are that the amendment would change the nature of the debate significantly in two respects. First, the official opposition's motion focuses on Quebec only, as it is entitled to do, whereas the amendment enlarges the debate to all of the provinces.

Second, the official opposition's motion refers to manpower development policy whereas the amendment proposed by the member for Calgary Southeast refers to labour market training policy.

On page 257 of Beauchesne's sixth edition, citation 929 reads:

On an allotted day, during consideration of the business of Supply, an amendment must not provide the basis for an entirely different debate than that proposed in the original motion. *Journals*, March 16, 1971, p. 416.

Accordingly, and with thanks to the member for Calgary Southeast for her submission, the Chair must rule the amendment is not receivable and not valid under our rules.

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Human Resources Development, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will be splitting my time with the hon. member for Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

When we debate in the House we often think about what the real people with real problems and real challenges are thinking as they see us exchange points of view. I wonder today what the unemployed Quebecer in Chicoutimi, Laval or Trois-Rivières would think about the motion brought forward by the hon. member for Mercier and the Bloc Québécois.

What would the single mother think as she struggles to hold down two part time jobs, scared to death that her family will end up on the street? What would the older worker think who sees his job disappearing while all the new jobs required better skills? What would the small business owner think who wants to create jobs and hire new workers but cannot afford to compete with the UI economy? What would the young student think as she prepares to leave school and sees her older friends already collecting unemployment insurance for the third, fourth or fifth time at a very young age?

These people are looking for a decent chance at a good job with a good income. Instead the Bloc Québécois has unfortunately resorted to this motion, a motion I believe has nothing to do with reality. It has nothing to do with the real challenges real people face in Quebec and outside of Quebec or with the real thrust of the employment insurance bill.

Instead, unfortunately the Bloc Québécois wants to pick a fight. It wants to pick a fight where there is really nothing to fight about. Is the Bloc truly concerned about provincial jurisdiction over training? Perhaps it should listen to the Prime Minister, to the minister who wrote this bill. Bloc members must read the bill itself.

• (1245)

The federal government is saying loudly and clearly that we will do nothing in this area without the express consent of the provinces. We will get out of any activities that might be seen as interfering with provincial responsibilities.

Is the Bloc truly concerned about overlap and duplication? Then listen to what we are saying. We are saying loudly and clearly to the provinces that if you want to deliver the employment benefits under this new system, we can live with that. If you have your own programs that do the same thing, let us use your programs. If you want to find better ways to co-ordinate programs and get rid of overlap and duplication, then let us do it.

The minister has extended an open hand to Quebec, to all provinces by saying let us build a new and better partnership. Quebec was the very first province to respond and the response was yes, let us talk. The Quebec National Assembly passed a motion to enter into talks with the federal government on the very same day the legislation was tabled.

It is time that members of the Bloc Québécois realized that time and reality have passed them by. Quite simply, the motion they have brought forward is out of date. It was made obsolete by the very bill they are trying to condemn. Let us stop. Canadians, whether they live in Quebec or outside Quebec, are tired of what really are imaginary battles.

What Canadians want us to do as responsible members of this Chamber is to get down and do the job that needs to be done. They want us to create a climate where people feel secure, a climate where jobs are created, where people are given opportunities and are empowered to make the best decisions possible for them, for their community and indeed for their nation.

As a federal member of Parliament, as a member of the Canadian government, I know we have made every effort possible to reach out to the provinces in the spirit of co-operation and goodwill. We have extended our hand to anyone who wants to sit down, to get together in a very meaningful partnership and implement the changes people are asking for.

I respect the hon. member for Lévis as a very hard working member of the human resources development committee. Of course, I do not share his point of view in reference to the issue of separation and many others. Now is not the time to throw up our arms; it is a time to roll up our sleeves.