

I have been told so in the course of the seven years that I have been a member. Never has a week gone by without a voter telling me, especially now that we are a majority government: I wonder how you, the majority government, cannot pass such and such measures? Then, Mr. Speaker, we have to spend minutes and hours explaining the Standing Orders of the House of Commons to these persons, trying to convince them that the government does not control Parliament, but that in fact the members do, and that the opposition often decides when such measure will be passed, because of the number of members it wishes to have heard. The truth is that we use Standing Order 75C because it is about time, because enough is enough and because we have to reach a decision.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, I wanted to be heard, because I wished to give some details. Canadians are looking forward to see this bill go further and I am in a good position to know it, as chairman of the committee.

And I can tell you that there are 22 witnesses, I have the list here, who are waiting to appear before the committee and who have been calling me for months every week to ask what is happening in this House or how come we cannot stop those interminable palavers. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we will indeed do it through Standing Order 75C. I should like all members to note that those who rose on the other side against the motion are not members of the opposition who sit on the Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts because these members are also asking me when the bill will be referred to the committee.

And yet hon. members of the opposition who sit on the Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts are certainly most interested to see that this bill receive fair treatment but they are the first to understand that after 47 speakers and 19 hours of debate it is time to refer the bill to the committee. They are eager to see the witnesses appear before them. The people who are most interested, those who are affected by this bill and who wish to appear before the committee, the members of the opposition, the members of the Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts ask me if they will have the opportunity to meet those people and talk to them in person. Let us stop making this seem like a debate on democracy, let us be honest and realize that some filibusters must stop and that time has come to put an end to this one.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker)—Housing—Request for

Time Allocation Motion

assurance no interference with installation of infrastructure to service development in southwest part of city; the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall)—Communications—Alleged deterioration of telephone communications systems—Suggested denial of rate increases pending improvement.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

TIME ALLOCATION MOTION WITH RESPECT TO BILL C-58

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp:

That, in relation to Bill C-58, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, five hours shall be allotted to the further consideration of the second reading stage of the bill; and

That, at the expiry of the fifth such hour, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt any proceeding before the House, if required for the purpose of this order, and shall forthwith put, without further debate or amendment, every question necessary for the disposal of the second reading stage of the bill.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault), the chairman of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, suggested that this legislation will affect most directly the witnesses who are to appear before the committee. It is obvious that he has missed the mark completely. It is the people of Canada who will be the most affected by this legislation. It is they who will suffer or benefit from it.

● (1650)

The May 9 committee minutes which the hon. member mentioned record the comments of a government member who coined a phrase when addressing those comments to the minister, "culture paranoia." That is a good term; it is descriptive; it describes perfectly the government's mental health, not only about culture but also about open debate. The government cannot stomach sustained 3½-hour opposition. It cannot stand open debate which examines and displays to the public view the inadequacies and fallacies of this legislation.

The minister made some very specious and fatuous comments about the procedure of the House and his respect for that procedure. What has not been pointed out is that it is his lack of respect for procedure in the House that has brought us to this pass. The minister has mentioned outside the House that the deadline for this legislation is January 1. The effect will then be felt by the Canadian people. That is why the government has to impose closure. If the government is going to save face for the minister and for itself, it will have to see this debate through, and through in a hurry. Otherwise, the minister will have to backtrack—and that is some thing he cannot do; at least, he does not enjoy it.

Two weeks ago the minister was interviewed over CBC radio. He was asked whether there was a lot of opposition