

that remark. Another Member over here said that he has the "clapper". Well, I do not know that, Mr. Speaker. I cannot countenance that remark either. Members of the Government are the worst examples of the abuse of Parliament. I was not in the House at the time, but the way in which they caused the bells to ring some years ago was a good example. Members of the Conservative Opposition at that time ran up and challenged the Speaker, shaking their fists at him. And now, in their puffed up hypocrisy, they are saying that they are the defenders of democracy. Mr. Speaker, they have abused democracy six times. They have taken closure to new heights and have abused it to the lowest depths. They are now bringing closure into the committees.

Mr. Manly: Shameful.

Mr. Rodriguez: Bill C-84, comprised of 235 pages, hands out the greatest amount of taxpayers' money to Tory hacks and flacks and friends. The Government introduced closure on that Bill even though it had been brought into the House only on November 27. The Government wants that Bill to be out of committee and into the House by next Monday. Government Members should hang their heads in shame that they have to resort to these undemocratic processes to get Bill C-74, a measly seven-page Bill, passed. Why do they have to do that?

Ms. Mitchell: They're afraid.

Mr. Rodriguez: Parliament resumed in September of 1985 and it took the Government six months to bring Bill C-84 to amend the Income Tax Act before the House. They are now saying that they must get it passed before the end of the year. They are saying the same with respect to Bill C-74 after having frittered and dithered away the time of Parliament.

Now the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) says he wants to prorogue the House so that he can start with a clean slate, a *tabula rasa*, so that he can give a new direction. Is this part of a machiavellian plot by the Prime Minister to show Canadian people how decisive he is? Is he really hurting because all those who watch Parliament see how indecisive he is? He wants to clear the desk. He wants to get rid of the tuna and the buffalo. One would have thought they had done a good job of getting rid of the buffalo some years ago. Now he wants to clear the table of the bungling on the deindexation of old age pensions. He wants the people to forget that. He wants to clear the Opposition off the table, but he is not going to do that, Mr. Speaker. We will not let him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rodriguez: I call upon members of the Opposition in the House to band together to prevent this juggernaut from destroying democracy in Canada through the use of the closure procedure which has been embarked upon.

● (1230)

I have been asked why the Conservatives have dropped to 40 per cent in the polls. It is a very good question. The reason is that they do not know how to govern.

Time Allocation

Mr. Manly: Why do they still have 40 per cent?

Mr. Rodriguez: I see, Mr. Speaker, that you are giving me two fingers again.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): If the Hon. Member wishes, I will give him a whole hand. The Hon. Member has the floor.

Mr. Rodriguez: I know that it means two minutes, Mr. Speaker, but I am glad I was not getting one.

The reason the Conservatives have dropped to 40 per cent in the polls is that they have substituted the skill of governing with the use of closure. It is that simple. Even with 211 Members in the Government, they have not honed the skills of governing. They have not understood that the Canadian way is the way of compromise, taking a little bit and combining it with what they want. Instead, the Conservatives bulldoze their way through Parliament. That reflects a lack of confidence on the part of the Prime Minister. He lacks confidence in his ability to govern. Therefore, his gang who sit behind him and around him—

Mr. Lewis: And around you.

Mr. Rodriguez:—decide to ram through Parliament legislation like Bill C-74, Bill C-84—give me another Bill.

Ms. Mitchell: Bill C-70.

Mr. Rodriguez: And Bill C-70. They just ram those Bills through. The Government knows that it should not proceed in this fashion. Members opposite are laughing because they think it is a big joke. However, 1988 will be here soon and I predict that they will be sitting on the Opposition benches again. If they continue in this way they will be punished by the people of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member's time has expired.

Some Hon. Members: More, more.

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, that is well deserved applause for great oratory. At least, on the face of it one would think it was great oratory. However, when one realizes what was actually said, it does not really amount to very much.

Most of what we heard this morning was wind and puffery, to use the words of the Hon. Member himself when making reference to other people. Last Monday, when the vote came up on Bill C-84, he had an opportunity to display his commitment to what he is saying. He mentioned Bill C-84 in his presentation and said that the Government used time allocation on Bill C-84 in order to cut off debate. He used his great oratorical skills to say that the Government would not let the