

*The Address—Mr. Gauthier*

rules and procedure, get people together and say that we must allocate the time for debate because we want to get out in the summer?

Let me tell hon. members what is going to happen if we have an allocation of time in advance of the consideration of legislation. Let me give fair warning to the three independent members, the five members of the Social Credit party and the eight members of the Cr ditiste party. Their opportunity to be heard in this house will virtually disappear because, unless the Conservative party backs away from its responsibility, the 96 members of that party are going to insist on their proportion of the time during these debates. If two days are allowed for a specific issue we are going to take up 96/264ths of that time because we intend to be heard. How much time will that leave the Social Credit party, the independents or the Cr ditistes? How many N.D.P. members will be heard?

The allocation of time will result in the restriction of speech. In spite of the small numbers in some of these parties I know of no occasion throughout the years when they have suffered from any restriction of this kind that has not been greater with respect to our party. On many occasions we have not insisted on our full time, permitting those members to be heard as they should be heard in this institution where free speech should prevail. They have views to present which are just as good as any views that may be presented by members of the Liberal or Conservative parties. They are entitled to be heard because they have been sent here in the same way we were sent here, by the votes of the people in their constituencies. They have been selected, rightly or wrongly, to represent their constituents here and their views should be heard as expressed by their members in this chamber. If an allocation of time is imposed, as has been forecast in speeches by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen), the new house leader, and by hints from the Prime Minister, this restriction will be painful to the members of those small parties because they will not be heard in this chamber.

I regret I have no further time to devote to this very interesting subject but I do suggest that we are launching ourselves on a very dangerous course. If we follow it we are going to weaken this institution to the point where it will become almost useless and we will be paving the way for any subversive force to take it over. We must keep alive the flame of freedom here. Let us forget time

allocation. Let us sit longer hours on occasion. What is wrong with an all-night session? It does not do anyone any harm. The people of Canada can sleep soundly in their beds while we are here debating and deciding issues which are important to our nation.

[Translation]

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, before making a few remarks, may I first of all congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne (Messrs. Jamieson and C t ). Both of them, although taking an active part in the debate for the first time, did a very good job in congratulating the government and singing its praises. It reminds me of a son who, after discovering his father's faults, is very careful not to publicize them. It is a good thing for the party but is it a good thing for the people who want to know and who are entitled to know the facts?

I would not want to miss this opportunity to congratulate our ever impartial Speaker who agreed to serve devotedly during another session. I hope he will continue to show as much patience as he has shown in the past and, especially, perseverance, so that he will not follow in the footsteps of some others who succeed one another in various positions, probably because they find the work too compromising. We can assure you, Mr. Speaker, of our fullest co-operation in all fair and just matters.

I wish also to congratulate the deputy speakers who have always shown that they know how to hold the fort in the absence of the Speaker.

● (12:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of this session, we listened patiently to several speakers, one after the other, and first of all the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) to whom I listened religiously, because it is always interesting to hear him. He looks so convinced, especially when he speaks of the reforms to be brought about in this house and particularly when he sees certain old dusty practices being discarded to rejuvenate Canada. This always prompts me to laugh, because when the great Leader of the Opposition sees rules with a capital "R" discarded, he nearly has a heart attack, and I am afraid that some day one of these attacks will carry him off. But he is certainly sincere and we, the younger, who would like to have a renewed and great country, consider that the name of "Canada" does not begin with a