

*Government Orders*

their aims because the bill will allow all Canadians to vote on a question concerning the Constitution.

[*English*]

For that reason, Madam Speaker, these members have sought to deprive Canadians across this country of their right to vote and they are prepared to block this bill in order to do it.

Their votes will not block it. They know that because the government has a big majority and some support elsewhere, but they feel that they can obstruct it in this House. What we saw yesterday was a parade of speakers designed to bring this bill to a standstill in the House. It has prevented our members from getting on with debates on the motions that we would like to debate.

You only have to look at the debate that went on yesterday on the first clause because it was on the title of the bill, for heaven's sake, and everybody had something to say on the title. When does that ever happen? Never. It is ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous.

What we want to do now is participate in this debate today so that we can put our views on the record with respect to these amendments and this bill and we are going to be deprived of much opportunity because the government, in order to deal with the obstruction, has had to bring in this guillotine and apply time allocation again.

I will come back to that in a moment because I would like to talk about the role of the New Democratic Party in all this. Its members were willing participants. Last night they obstructed this House in allowing us to sit late so that members could continue to speak to these amendments and allow the various amendments at report stage to be debated.

**Mr. Whittaker:** What are you doing now? You are obstructing the bill.

**Mr. Milliken:** I am explaining why I am speaking on this debate and the hon. member knows it.

What the New Democratic Party did was say it will not sit late. Its members all stood up and objected when the question was put last night to continue the hours of sitting.

Why did they do that? Because they are not democratic. Remember the Federal Democratic Republic in

Germany, the FDR? Remember that? Why was it called a democratic republic when it was a communist dictatorship? Because it was trying to cover up its anti-democratic values, that is why. It was trying to pretend it was something it was not.

The New Democratic Party is involved in the same exercise. Those members do not want the people of Canada to have a vote on this issue. They do not want Canadians to express their views in a referendum. They want to tell Canadians what is good for them and jam it down their throats.

We in the Liberal Party do not take that view. I am sorry to make this partisan but we are being deprived of our rights to address this bill in this House because of the tactics, the partisan tactics, of the other parties in this House.

We have played easy and co-operative on this and the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader knows that. We worked with him in the committee to get the amendments to this bill. We have agreed to some amendments. We would like more, and we have moved more here that we would like to debate today, but we are going to be deprived of that opportunity because of the government's guillotine and the Bloc's obstruction and the unwillingness of the New Democratic Party to debate late last night.

That is what is depriving us of an opportunity to carry on a reasonable debate on this bill.

We have fault down on one side. We have fault down on another side. Now let us look at the government's hand in all this.

Here we have a government saying it wants to save the country. What a sudden revelation that was to this group because if the government is intending to save the country it would have brought this bill in months and months ago when the Leader of the Opposition stood in this House and asked it to do it. He had a deal with the government House leader to bring this bill in months ago and the government House leader dilly-dallied.

The Quebec caucus on the other side went to the minister of constitutional affairs and got it stopped. That is why this bill was not dealt with months and months ago. Instead the government House leader in his usual dictatorial and bully-boy fashion came waltzing into this House one day and said: "Here is the bill. Pass it".