

I wonder if the Hon. Member could explain why it is possible that this office can give \$9.5 million to a Japanese pulp mill but it cannot approve the application of the person to whom he referred. I am not quite certain what the Hon. Member's first question was. I think it dealt generally with the type of optimism or pessimism that exists in western Canada today.

Mr. Shields: The support that this Government has given to—

Mr. de Jong: And the support of this Government. I am somewhat surprised that this Hon. Member has not recognized that this Government is in trouble out there from both the left and the right. It almost lost a by-election in Alberta, which is considered to be the heartland of the Tory Party.

I attended the founding convention of the Western Reform Party in Vancouver. There were a number of Conservatives and the odd Liberal present. They were having problems with the federal Government and were recognizing that nothing has changed. In many aspects—

Mr. Shields: Did you join?

Mr. de Jong: No, I did not join. In many ways, I disagreed with what that Party stands for, but I certainly saw that Conservatives from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba feel a deep-seated frustration with this Conservative Government. Those Conservatives believe that this Government has not delivered, and on that I agree with them.

[Translation]

Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to say a few words about Bill C-113, introduced on the initiative of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to establish the Department of Western Economic Diversification.

What is important here, Mr. Speaker, is that we are now at the third reading stage of this Bill. We have spent five or six hours on third reading, and our colleagues in the New Democratic Party, who have been demanding equitable regional development across Canada, are filibustering to prevent us from adopting this Bill.

These are the same Members who believed in regional equality and nevertheless voted against Bill C-22, which would enable the pharmaceutical industry to expand in the Montreal region and across Canada.

These are the same Members, of the same Party, who voted against the sale of Canadair to Bombardier which would bring more technology and more development to Quebec.

So in fact, the New Democratic Party's aim is not to promote equitable regional development programs but to

Western Economic Diversification Act

systematically prevent this Government from creating such programs.

[English]

Therefore, I move:

That the House continue to sit through the lunch hour for the purpose of continuing consideration of Bill C-113, an Act to promote the development and diversification of the economy of Western Canada, to establish a Department of Western Economic Diversification and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will those Hon. Member who object to the motion please rise in their places?

And fewer than 15 Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Fewer than 15 Members having risen, the motion is adopted.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to my hon. friend and to the Hon. Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields) before him. I notice that we have debated the Bill on western diversification for about five hours. I am curious that members of the Government would consider a five hour debate to be excessive, too much, a filibuster, wrong-headed and inappropriate. I wonder if Canadians who are watching us on their television sets and from the gallery would consider five hours of debate on a major western economic initiative to be an excessive amount of debate.

I want to remind my hon. friend opposite that a democracy is not the most efficient system of government. The most efficient system of government is that which is found in totalitarian regimes and military dictatorships where they do not have to bother with Parliament and where members of the Government do not have to bother with members of the Opposition. Government members can ignore the people of Canada and their concerns. That is the most efficient system of government, but we do not have that system in Canada.

The Conservatives are attempting in devious ways to turn this into a totalitarian form of government where there is no debate in the House of Commons. My hon. friend was not here at that time, so I certainly do not hold him responsible for the behaviour of his colleagues before him, but I remember the day in this House when the Members of Parliament, duly elected by the people of Canada, were presented with the spectacle of a whole group of Conservative Members of Parliament rushing the Speaker's chair, brandishing their fists in his face and saying that they would bring Parliament to its knees.

I remember that day. I must say that it was one of the saddest days of my life. I was saddened to think that people who were elected to represent their views had decided that it