

*Time Allocation*

Eighty-two per cent agreed, and that is exactly what the Bill does. So for all of the efforts of the Opposition, the public of Canada understands that this legislation is to their benefit.

While I regret that we have had to bring in this motion of time allocation—and I sincerely regret that—we really had no choice. The Opposition refused to negotiate any reasonable allocation of time. Regrettably, I had to put the motion. I look forward to the vote, and I look forward to our getting away for a few days' holiday to recuperate from some of the emotional activity which has taken place here. Hopefully, we will come back in a better mood and ready to proceed with other business for which the people of Canada have elected us.

**Mr. Lesick:** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to speak on the time allocation motion with respect to Bill C-22. My constituents in Edmonton East who are watching us must be wondering what is happening in this good House. Over 200 members of the Government were elected. They were asked to put in legislation which they believed was in the interests of the citizens of Canada. We were asked to do that because our constituents believed that we as a Progressive Conservative Party, we as the Government, would be a good governing Party. They believed that we could do good things for this country and in the past two and a half years we have.

We have brought forward Bill C-22 which is to the benefit of all Canadians. We have spent much time in Parliament and in committee discussing the legislation, yet we still have this difficulty with the Opposition. Bill C-22 is for the benefit of Canadians. We need a better health system. With this Bill we can do a better job for the citizens of Canada by providing better medications. As the Minister has just mentioned, we have devoted 82 hours in committee to this legislation. Day after day, for three hours, four hours, with all its expense, we have discussed this Bill which is for the benefit of Canadians. We have devoted the time to hearing 46 groups and 98 individuals, we have spent all this time on debate, and it seems most awkward that we should not be able to come to this House and make a decision.

The majority of Canadians have asked this Government to do a job, which it is doing. We have respected the Opposition. We have bent over backwards in order to do everything possible to respect the minority Opposition. It is time the Opposition began to respect the governing body. There are over 210 Members of Parliament who represent every segment and every region of this country. We obviously have the ear of the public. We have the understanding and confidence of Canadians to pass a Bill of such importance and of such great value for Canadians. For the Opposition to put up these delaying tactics over and over again is almost despicable.

In the latest poll more than 82 per cent of the people said they want the Government to pass this Bill. They want to reap the benefits of health that this Bill will provide for us in the future. We have assured the public, our senior citizens, those who are handicapped and those who are in need, that this Bill will not raise the price of drugs. We have given this assurance

to the provinces, and they agree that this is an excellent Bill. Universities are waiting for this Bill to be passed so they can reap the benefits, so that graduate students can start working to improve the health of this nation through their investigative work. Why should this not be done in Canada? Why should we have to depend on other countries for the medications which we import? They do the work, we do the manufacturing and present the drugs to the public. When are we going to have the pride within ourselves to do this type of work, and in so doing provide jobs for our university graduates and our researchers?

It is long past the time when we should pass this Bill. I commend not only our Government but the Minister for standing up in his place and deciding it is time we had time allocation. We offered the Opposition virtually all the time in the world to discuss this Bill thoroughly. The amount of \$800 million is waiting in the wings for research. But what are we doing? We are arguing in this House whether we should pass the Bill today, tomorrow, or next month. If I read the Opposition rightly, it wants this Bill passed next year. Our Government is the best Government Canada has had in a decade. Why should the people of Canada not reap the benefits of good Government? Why should they not reap the benefits of Bill C-22? Why should they not reap the benefits of what the Government believes is the best we have to offer for greater and better health care for Canadians?

My constituents have asked me what this Bill is all about. I said that it was for better health care, and the sooner it is dealt with the better. They said to me: "What is the problem?" I was in my riding last week, and I said that the matter is still being discussed. They said: "But you have a majority. Why can you not do anything? We are disappointed in you". I had to tell them that the disappointment has to be not with the Government but with members of the Opposition. There is time for opposition. We have listened to members of the Opposition. We have respected them and it is now time for us to act.

• (1740)

I suggest that when this Bill is passed it will be not only for the benefit of all Canadians but members of the Opposition will see that the Bill they have been arguing against is a good Bill. But it will take them some time because the Opposition is that way. Members of the Opposition take time to learn. Hopefully, they will see the light when they see the advantages of this Bill in two years or in five years' time.

We know that members of the Opposition were up to their old tricks when they placed before the House at report stage some 47 amendments. The country realizes that they are up to their old stunts. In 1984 the people of Canada said: "We want a new government". They want a good government. They wanted the Progressive Conservatives to govern. We are here to govern to the best of our abilities. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that even members of the Opposition, as hard as they will try, must bend and realize that we are right. We have not always been perfect, but we have always listened to what they