

*Extension of Sittings*

place in a parliamentary democracy. We have just begun to fight.

The Government says it has important legislation to introduce. Where is the child care legislation? The Government says it has child care legislation that the Opposition is holding up. Have you seen the child care legislation, Madam Speaker? No, you have not. It has not been introduced, so how can we be holding up legislation that has not even been introduced in the House of Commons? That is just one Bill. I could list a whole number of pieces of legislation that the Government wants passed expeditiously and quickly, preferably without debate. However, we have not even seen that legislation. It has not been introduced in the House of Commons.

I remember the Throne Speech of 1984. The Government said that one of its priorities was to introduce legislation regarding child care. We waited for the fall of 1984, we waited all of 1985, we waited all of 1986 and all of 1987. It is now well into 1988 and we still have not seen a single page of legislation.

**Mr. Rossi:** Slow workers.

**Mr. Riis:** My hon. friend says that they are slow workers. This is government in reverse.

Since this Opposition does not want to co-operate on the trade deal, the solution now is to force the Opposition into it. The Government is going to exhaust the Opposition into it because it is a very small group. There are only 33 New Democrats and 40 Liberals—

**Mr. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Thirty-three too many.

**Mr. Riis:** I know there are too many of us as far as the Conservatives are concerned. They do not want any opposition. Their ideal world is to have a dictatorship, just one party. That is their ideal.

There is a new wave occurring in Canada. This is not a one-Party system. There is an opposition and we do not plan to co-operate on the trade deal.

● (1630)

**Mr. Andre:** Or on anything else.

**Mr. Riis:** On anything else, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) says. He is wrong. Last Thursday we demonstrated that. Five Bills were introduced on Indian concerns. We said that we would pass them expeditiously because the legislation was good. We co-operated 100 per cent. For one of the very first times all five Bills moved through the House of Commons in a single day. If the Government brings forward good legislation, we will pass it expeditiously. If the Government brings in assistance to the farmers, that legislation will go through here like you have never seen it before, like greased lightning, Mr. Speaker. If the

Government brings in legislation on flow-through shares, again it will go like greased lightning through this place, but not legislation to implement the trade deal that will redirect not only the economic policies of this country but the social, cultural and the political policies of this country. In other words, the Government wants to turn this country into a fifty-first state, and we say no.

Let me say why we felt it was appropriate that we follow the parliamentary calendar. After months and months of study, Members of the House of Commons unanimously agreed it would be useful and it would make a great deal of sense if we established a parliamentary calendar. We would sit as a Parliament for 10 months of the year and then for July and August we would break from the House of Commons so that we could go back to our constituencies and work. Most of us have made plans during July and August in our constituencies. Call them constituency tours, meetings, or special gatherings with groups. The parliamentary calendar said that was when we could do that, and we agreed. Even the Conservatives agreed to the parliamentary calendar. We made plans. We felt it was important that Members of Parliament have some time to spend with their families. This might not be a priority for the Conservatives but for some of us it is. Spending time with our families and our constituents is important. We all agreed unanimously that for the months of July and August we would do just that. All of a sudden, the Conservatives said: "We don't like this idea. We don't like the idea of Members going home to their constituents and conducting tours".

**Mrs. Sparrow:** That is not true.

**Mr. Riis:** "We are going to force you to sit during the summer months". Again, that goes against the unanimous decision made as a Parliament. The Minister in his comments indicated that the Government is very big hearted and has decided that for the trade legislation, which the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) said is the most important legislation introduced since the Second World War, there will be five days of debate. Only five days debate on the trade legislation. We have three or four days debate on routine tax Bills but on the largest piece of legislation with its implications not only for this generation of Canadians but for generations afterwards the Government said it will allow five days debate, do we agree.

**Mr. Crofton:** Five days with some extension.

**Mr. Riis:** To be fair, five days with some extension and a few hours into the evening. Remember, Madam Speaker, this proposal comes from a Party which gave 98 speeches on the Constitution and then, if you like, threatened the Speaker in the chair because its Members felt that their speaking rights were being terminated. The Conservatives said they would be generous and allow five days of debate for all 282 Members of the House of Commons.

**Mr. Crofton:** It is nine days at second reading.