

*Government Orders*

little of what is happening here. They do not understand the impact that these agreements will have on their home provinces.

The government has the attitude that the quicker it can push this through the less waves it will make. It would rather not have the people know what is happening here today. I came to Ottawa to represent my constituents, to be their voice in Ottawa. I would not be doing my job if I had not raised their concerns in the House. We have to speak up.

They have similar concerns to the ones I expressed here today. I even heard from an elder. I know many of these people in Saskatchewan. Some of them are my friends and they have raised similar concerns to the ones I have raised here today.

People would rather not listen. They would rather not know what some of the grassroots native people are saying. They would like to hush it up. They would like to keep it quiet.

This is a key element in the process we see here today. This elder from one of the reserves in my constituency complained of the Mafia tactics used by Indian leaders to suppress the will of the grassroots Indian people. We have received many similar complaints from Manitoba.

Were non-native Yukon citizens given the opportunity to review and vote? Were they given the opportunity to review and vote on these agreements? People who do not know are answering but I do not hear the people who know. We are asking these questions to ensure that Parliament is signing agreements that the majority of Indian people and the majority of Canadian taxpayers will support.

These land claim agreements may or may not be able to be changed in the future, so it is vital that all of these important questions be answered before this bill is passed by Parliament. When this bill is passed there will be 10 more land claim agreements that will be passed without any further scrutiny by Parliament.

It is for this reason that Reformers want to take all the time that is necessary to examine, discuss, debate and amend this bill until we can get it absolutely right. I ask members to consider the process that is taking place here today. We have heard a lot of rhetoric but I have not heard many answers to these questions.

Finally, the question of native self-government was put to the Canadian people during the Charlottetown accord referendum and we all know what the people said. They said no, and yet this government went ahead.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger):** Order. I wonder if the hon. member might assist the Chair. The first 10 minutes has lapsed and I am not clear whether it is an equal 10-minute split or if in fact, it is 20-minutes and the hon. member for Comox—Alberni will get the remaining time from the member for Yorkton—Melville.

**Mr. Breitzkreuz (Yorkton—Melville):** In a total of 20 minutes, I have about a half-minute left.

The government has run roughshod over everyone. It is implementing a concept that was not debated and approved by Canadians.

• (2020)

It is obvious this government does not even want this nation to debate this agreement. The people of Canada should be made aware of the fine print because really they are the ones who are a party to this agreement. It is between the Indians and the people of Canada.

**Mr. Bill Gilmour (Comox—Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on Bill C-33, especially given the limited amount of time this government has allowed for the debate.

This process that has taken place in the last 24 hours in this House has left me and many Canadians disappointed and disheartened. The same democratic principles that this House violated last night are ironically and also shamefully violated in this bill.

I view with suspicion and concern the intentions of this government when the members of this House are denied the opportunity to debate this bill fully and completely. It appears that this government is trying to restrict debate and rush this bill through to hide the controversial contents of this bill from the Canadian public.

This is the same strategy that the last government used a year ago in the Nunavut deal. Obviously this government has no intention to conduct business any differently than the last Conservative government. Indeed it has learned too well from its predecessors but seems to have forgotten the plunge to oblivion that closed door politics caused its predecessors.

Bill C-33 sets a dangerous precedent and as such the contents of this bill cannot be viewed too lightly. I suspect that many members on the opposite side have not even read the terms of this agreement let alone given it constructive review. If they had I question how they could remain silent for so long on this issue. How can the members in good conscience agree to railroading this legislation through the way they are doing?

There are many areas in this bill that need to be addressed and given careful consideration. Not only has this government moved closure on this bill but it also rammed the legislation through committee. This process increases the likelihood of any oversights. There has been little opportunity for honest discussion and debate on this bill as the government has made every effort to railroad it through the House at every stage of its passage.

There are many flaws in this bill that must be addressed before they become law. This bill contains a clause which allows future changes to this legislation to be made, guess what, behind