

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to answer that question. The House Leader of the New Democratic Party has sort of toned down his rhetoric and emotion. If he is suggesting that three hours of debate on an important piece of legislation affecting western Canada, particularly prairie grain producers, is too long—

**An Hon. Member:** Two hours.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Is it two hours? In any event the value which he places upon this institution and the value I place on it are different. The fact of the matter is that we have every intention of seeing that the Bill goes through to committee today. I appreciate the support of the Opposition in facilitating it.

However, I repeat that Parliament is a debating place. If Members of Parliament representing agricultural constituencies are to be denied the right to speak as a result of the tactics in which the Official Opposition and the NDP are engaged, I think it is an affront to this institution. It is an affront to Parliament. It is an affront to the people who sent those Hon. Members to represent them on the floor of the House of Commons. We are not filibustering our Bill. We are giving Hon. Members who are desirous of an opportunity to be heard and to speak on the Bill an opportunity to do so. I hope the Hon. Member, in his expression of goodwill, would allow that to take place.

I also hope that the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier would withdraw the motion because I can assure him that with a couple of more short interventions the Bill will be passed into committee.

**An Hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The expert on parliamentary procedure in the back row over there says "No". I understand that he is taking his cues from her. That is fine; that will be recorded as such. The record will show that the NDP and the Liberal Party combined to move what in effect was an attempt to close the debate or to move closure on debate affecting the agricultural community of Canada. That is the sum and substance of it.

**Mr. Gauthier:** No, it is not, and you know it.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** That is the way it will be interpreted. The Hon. Member wants to deny western Members an opportunity to speak, and I regret that very much.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, we agree with the Government that the Bill is urgent. We agree that it should be passed quickly. If the Government is disposed to do so now, we would comply and the question could be put.

What are government Members telling us? Do they want to call it one o'clock? If so, that is fine with me. However, I say

to the Minister: "Please do not vote against your own Bill". That is what he is doing.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of voting against my Bill. I have every intention of voting against the silly tactic of that Hon. Member. All I am saying to him is that we will prolong the debate so that all our Hon. Members can speak, and then we will vote on it. If he were a gentleman about the whole exercise, he would withdraw the motion in the spirit of goodwill and in the expression of goodwill advanced by the House Leader of the New Democratic Party. We will allow our Members who have not had a chance to speak to continue to speak, and then we will take the vote.

**Mr. McKnight:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few brief comments on this matter. With the representation found in government ranks and with the capable speakers found in government ranks who want to put forward to their constituents some of the good news and to explain a Bill which is important to the people I represent, I find it strange that the House Leader of the New Democratic Party would ask: What is the difference between June and now? I should not have to explain it to the Hon. Member who has expertise in agriculture. He knows the number of farmers who are represented by his Party and the great farm vote which his Party received in the Province of Saskatchewan last October 20. I think it was two ridings. The difference between June and now is what is called the crop year. The crop year ends on July 31. That is why it was urgent when the Official Opposition, the Liberal Party, denied consent to have this piece of legislation passed in June, in time for farmers to take advantage of it in the new crop year. The difference between now and last June is the fact that there is a crop year.

The actions about which the Hon. Member talked are evident to Canadian farmers. Those actions include the removal of the gas tax, the removal of the diesel tax, the removal of capital gains, and interim payments on western grain stabilization. I see that you, Mr. Speaker, are signalling that it is almost one o'clock. I would have liked to talk about drought payments, flood payments, livestock payments, and the \$300,000 which was put into the dairy program. However, I see Your Honour rising, so I will take my seat.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The period provided for questions and comments is over.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock later this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.