

*Time Allocation*

of Canada cannot get the piece of legislation which the government promised during the last election.

**Mr. Stollery:** Don't forget that you are talking for only 28 per cent of them.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** As well as being a reasonable man, which I know is generally agreed on the other side—

**Mr. MacEachen:** Walter!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** As the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) said, I am a patient man. I do not want the Liberal party to try such a feeble argument that they can appear to be co-operative on the one hand and obstructive on the other. I want them to be known for what they are—obstructers. They have proven this today.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** If the truth were known, by bringing this motion today I have really saved the Liberal party from themselves. I have saved them from straining the credulity of the public with respect to their motivations.

I think the opposition will strain the credulity of the public in other ways. They will be claiming that they have been cut off at the knees; that their pearls of wisdom on this bill have not been given sufficient time to be heard; that the Canadian government is so Draconian that it is cutting short the debate on Bill C-20. I think this government has been extremely generous with the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** For instance, the opposition has had four allotted days, eight days for the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, six days on Bill C-23, the bill on interim supply and supplementary estimates, for a total of 18 days. Also we have agreed to give them five days, if they want them, to debate whatever they wish in the main estimates. There will be at least two days of budget debate before Christmas. That is a total of 25 days out of a possible total of 54 parliamentary days. They have no case at all to stand in the way of this bill and claim that they have been wronged. If there is a case, Canadians have a case against them.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker—

**An hon. Member:** Happy Birthday.

**Mr. Axworthy:** —after listening to the President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Baker) pleading with this House to have the bill before Christmas, it brings to mind the words of the old song "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth".

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Axworthy:** I think that is all the minister wants.

[Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton).]

**Mr. Huntington:** What about your leader?

**Mr. Hees:** What do you want?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Let me tell Mr. Hees and members opposite—

**Mr. Hees:** Order. It is the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees).

**Mr. Axworthy:** Members opposite should spend less time worrying about our leadership race and more time worrying about the bad performance of their government. If they did that, the Canadian people would not be giving them 28 per cent of the vote and the country would not be in the mess it is right now.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Axworthy:** I would say that they should be far more worried about their own leadership than ours. It is their own leadership which is in trouble, not our leadership.

**An hon. Member:** That is a 28-per cent joke.

**Mr. Axworthy:** I would say to members opposite on the back benches: if they look at the Gallup poll they have a lot more to worry about with their leadership than ours.

If I might, I should like to speak to the motion in front of us. The President of the Privy Council had some very interesting things to say about why this particular motion was necessary at this time. At the opening of this debate we said that we would learn a lot about the Conservative party in Bill C-20. Well, we have learned a lot about them. We have learned that they do not know how to manage the economy. We have learned that they are the only party that would bring in a bill committing an expenditure of \$3 billion for years in advance, without knowing whether they have the money, or whether conditions require it.

**An hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Also we found out very quickly that they really are socially discriminatory. They are really not prepared to provide relief for a population which shares the pressures of housing equally. All they are prepared to do is to provide for a select group of people in the population.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Axworthy:** We have found out this afternoon something more serious: this is a party which does not really believe in Parliament.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Axworthy:** For a party which campaigned up and down the country on the pretence that they would restore the rights of Parliament, and that they were going to give individual members more responsibility, to introduce this motion for closure after one-half day of committee hearing, shows that