

*Labour*

three more speakers to speak to this particular piece of legislation.

We have had discussions among the House Leaders and among the Parties, and I think you will find there is unanimous consent for this motion, Mr. Speaker.

That this House continue to sit beyond 6 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of concluding consideration of the second reading motion of Bill C-8, and that the sitting be then suspended to the call of the Chair to await certain messages from the Senate and for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to Bill C-14.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the motion just moved is the result of consultations among the Parties. I would be happy to agree that leave be given to hear the motion and that it be accepted. With respect to the number of speakers, as far as I am aware, we have one more speaker. The individual in question is taking part in the committee hearing and may not be able to be back in time. If that is the case, he will obviously speak at a subsequent stage of the debate.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member from Thunder Bay—Atikokan on the same point of order.

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to confirm that, yes, there have been consultations and the approach is acceptable. I am not sure of the number of additional speakers that we have, but we certainly appreciate the co-operation of the government side in terms of allowing the debate to continue. We look forward to its conclusion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have the unanimous consent to move his motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Sault St. Marie (Mr. Butland).

**Mr. Steve Butland (Sault St. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that some of my comments and criticisms earlier in my speech were inappropriate, and it was agreed upon by government Members to allow us to

speak, and they agreed not to speak. So I apologize for those comments.

**Mr. James:** That takes care of the problem.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon).

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, as I think back to my last term as a Member of Parliament, one of the most difficult situations I faced as an MP was having groups of workers come before me from one of the long-time plants in our city, Champion Spark Plugs. During the deepest part of the recession in the early 1980s, those workers had access to the Labour Adjustment Benefits Program. That program was ultimately taken away from them in 1983. The consequence was that when the next major lay-off hit Champion Spark Plug, many older workers who were in precisely the same situation as people who had faced lay-offs two years previously, or in some cases one and a half years previously, found that they were not eligible for benefits at the same time as their colleagues had already started to receive such benefits under LAB.

• (1740)

That told me two things, Mr. Speaker. First, it was very important to replace the Labour Adjustment Benefits Program with a program which covered all workers, potentially at least, who would suffer significant lay-offs. It also told me that it was crucial to have flexibility built into this program, whatever came to replace LAB.

Therefore, I was very pleased in the last Parliament when, in 1986, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced in his Budget that a program for older worker adjustment was going to be established. It was something which was overdue. It was something that we certainly felt would cover the problems of workers such as those at Champion Spark Plug, and workers in other parts of the auto industry in my constituency and in adjoining constituencies in the Windsor area.

It has been with a growing sense of anger and impatience that I have waited to see this legislation actually come before the House of Commons. Again and again myself, and our employment critic at that time, kept asking questions of the Government as to when was it actually going to bring in the legislation to put into effect a promise which it had made, a solid commitment that it had made.