

*Time Allocation*

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I wish to thank the Hon. Member for his remarks. Nevertheless, I would like to add that in the close to four years that I have been in the House now I have seen many times when, on consent, the House has decided to put aside some of its rules and move in a different way. I wanted to make sure, as I think it was my duty, that such was not the desire of the House at that point. Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Ms. Dewar).

**Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, my major concern this afternoon is what I would almost consider sleazy behaviour on the part of some of our colleagues. There has been all sorts of manipulation. I was in the House this morning. I did not hear any suggestion of extending debate over the lunch hour and I have heard accusations flying back and forth.

The basis of this whole debate is to limit debate on a very important issue, the taking away from the people of Canada of their own airline and putting it into some so-called private sector that very likely could be controlled with all the manipulation by a foreign power. Because of that we need to have an extensive debate.

• (1530)

I become very concerned when I hear people talk about how we are holding up the business of the House. Granted, I have not been here for very long, but I do recognize the fact that this House has been sitting for over three years now. Come fall, it will be four years. All these Bills have now been listed. Did it take the Government until this last year to put these Bills on the legislative agenda? If that is the case, I hardly think it is fair to be accusing the other side of the House of holding things up.

I am also very concerned about the fact that this heavy-handed approach is being taken. There should be a broad discussion not just about what is happening to a major asset of Canada but about how the people of Canada feel about the implications of what could happen. Some of the statements made have been authoritarian and non-democratic. Certainly, a Government that is holding about 206 seats should not be backward about allowing us to put on record the feedback we are getting from our ridings.

I hear all this grandiose talk about extending debates, about the ability to extend debate but that no one is doing it. When I was not a Member of Parliament but an ordinary citizen, my understanding was that parliamentary reform was brought in so that there could be thoughtful consideration and serious debate on issues, so that there would be no night hearings and so that the regular timetable for the legislature could be followed so people could be responsible about their duties as Members of Parliament. Since I have been here, every now and then I hear that we need to have 15 people in the House or else they will extend the debate and shut off another Bill or we will be sitting all summer because the Government has not

been able to get its legislative agenda together. That is certainly not the kind of Government Canadians thought they were getting when they saw that parliamentary reform was coming in. It really does make a farce of this structure that was supposed to make us responsible, make us thoughtful and help us bring issues forward, issues that we feel are important to our constituents and indeed important to the whole of Canada.

Certainly some of the words of the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart) which were quoted today were embarrassing. It certainly helped me to recognize what has been going on. Hon. Members are simply saying: "You did, you didn't, you did, you didn't," but are not really addressing the fact that we are supposed to be able to look at the whole issue of the privatization of Air Canada and its implications on isolated communities.

This country was brought together by transportation networks and systems. Yet this Government wants to use less than eight hours of debate and allow about 20 people to speak in the House and then say that is it, we know what is good for you and we will do it. Surely that is not the kind of democracy that we should have in the year 1988.

We do know that there has been more and more of a desire on the part of Canadians to know what is happening here. There have been many requests to ensure that we use technology so that people can know what is happening. Certainly, the televising of the House of Commons debates has given Canadians access to what is happening here, but on a day like today, I think what they are hearing and seeing is rather tragic.

This Government wants to railroad things through. There would be some excuse for it if it were a minority Government. As a minority Government, it would be a little more sensitive to procedure. If it were a minority Government, it would feel that it would have to do this and that in case the House falls. However, after having a great majority for three and a half years, the Government is now trying to rush everything through at the last minute and it is saying that it is the Opposition's fault because we will not allow debate. Where were the Bills? Just 10 days ago, we received a Bill that amends 27 statutes. It is absolutely ludicrous that the Government is doing that while saying that we are holding up debate. I think this is a real tragic day for democracy.

The Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) is very good at making a joke of everything. However, when he was in Opposition, he said some things with which we agree. He said, when he was on this side of the House, the following:

Where are all the defenders of the people on the other side of the House? They are going to come out of their trough in a few minutes. They will hear the bell and will have to break away from whatever trough they have their noses in at the moment. They will have to come into this House and say "Oink, oink". They will have to say "Aye, aye". They will have to say "Yes" to the stampeding of Parliament, to rushing this bill through the House. They will have to say "Yes" to the gutting of Parliament. They have to do the dirty work that the parliamentary assistants, assassins and eunuchs have asked them to do.