

Government Orders

That cannot happen too soon. It is very important that it does happen quickly. Farmers are starting to become very active and are expressing a lot more concern that the wheat board exists for the pleasure of the federal government and not to serve farmers.

That is what is stated in the wheat board bill and farmers are starting to recognize maybe the wheat board is not working for them quite the way they would like it to and the way they can make sure the board does work more effectively for them is by electing a board of directors.

When I am asked about the chances of farmers getting an elected board of directors to replace the government appointed commissioners soon, looking at the record of the government in the way it treats democracy and the real lack of respect it has shown for democracy over this session, it is not very likely.

I point out a few of the specifics that make me say that. We can start with the pension bill. We have seen with the pension bill which was debated earlier today there are several procedural perversions put in place by the Liberals which really showed the Liberals do not have the respect for democracy they should have.

• (1905)

The Liberal led and directed committed refused to hear from members of the public on the substance of the pension bill, the Canadian public, the people paying for the pension program. That is not acceptable; it not democracy as it should be.

The lack of notice from the government of its intention to debate the bill clause by clause after a full day of hearings is not the kind of democratic change that would lead me to believe it is likely to go on and allow democracy into the wheat board.

Despite the fact that witnesses pointed out numerous flaws in the bill, it took the Liberals just 12 short minutes to complete their consideration of this porky pension bill.

Their actions on the pension bill really should not surprise me.. It led me to believe it is very unlikely they will allow the democratization of the wheat board. I will go through a list of other specifics that lead me to believe this is very unlikely to happen.

Here is an extended list of the procedural perversions the Liberals have used to show they really do not respect democracy in this place. These are all cases of time allocation or closure invoked in the House: Bill C-18, the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, March 24, 1994; June 21, 1994, Bill C-34, the Yukon First Nations self-government act; Bill C-33, the Yukon First Nations Land Claims Settlement Act; Bill C-32, the Excise Tax Act; Bill C-35, Department of Citizenship and Immigration Act; March 22, 1995, Bill C-77, maintenance of the Railway Operations Act, second reading; Bill C-77 at report stage; April 5, 1995, Bill C-68, the gun control act, second

reading and Reform's reasoned amendments to split the bill; April 26, 1995, Bill C-76, the Budget Implementation Act, second reading; June 5, 1995, Bill C-76 at report stage, and the list goes on, a list that really leads me to doubt the government will ever allow the Canadian Wheat Board to be democratized and allow farmers to take control of their organization.

The most recent procedural perversions are Bill C-41, the sentencing bill, hate crimes, report stage; Bill C-41, third reading; Bill C-68, gun control, report stage; C-68, gun control, third reading, and Bill C-85 today on MPs pensions, first at report stage and again time allocation.

This interference in the normal procedure that should take place in the House, which has rules which govern the amount of debate, is unacceptable.

As we add to the list of procedural perversions, I will mention some other anti-democratic things we have seen happen in the House over the past while.

Let us go back to before the last election, the appointment of several Liberal candidates, rather than going through the democratic nomination process. This is unacceptable.

A few days ago the Prime Minister threatened MPs in his party, saying he would not sign their nomination papers if they vote against government bills, twice was what we heard. In an article from the *Globe and Mail* by Doug Fisher: "Support us or else, MPs warned. Liberal MPs who vote against important government legislation may not be allowed to run for the party in the next election, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien warned Saturday".

Here is a quote from Mr. Chrétien—

• (1910)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): According to the rules we recognize one another either by riding name or by portfolio. Notwithstanding reading any quotes, it is to be as if the member were saying the words.

I ask the member's co-operation in recognizing the minister or the Prime Minister by portfolio and not by name.

Mr. Benoit: Mr. Speaker, the quote is: "I sign the nomination papers when there is an election. It is my privilege, and dissident MPs know it". That comes from our Prime Minister in another clear demonstration of the lack of respect for democracy. It is intolerable and the Liberal backbenchers will not stand for this much longer. I hope that is the case.

The Prime Minister kicked three members who had the guts to vote with their constituents against the gun control bill off their committees. The chair of the justice committee, who decided correctly the budget implementation bill went completely against what was stated in the red book, had the guts to vote against it and of course was disciplined.