

*Government Orders*

opposition, which would have allowed us to settle the whole dispute as early as Monday.

Do not forget that, instead of agreeing to or discussing this demand, the Minister of Labour and the government adopted a hammer-like approach in conducting parliamentary proceedings this week. This is not democracy week; it is a record for a new minister recently elected to this Parliament to flout parliamentary rules four times in order to speed up debate and settle this matter as quickly as possible without any respect whatsoever for those involved.

Furthermore, I would remind you that the Minister of Labour made a statement in this House which was quite surprising, coming as it did from a new member of Parliament who, we personally believed, wanted to advance labour relations. On March 22, the Minister of Labour said this:

Let us be realistic: Kruger is closed, while Bécancour, Alcan and Petromont are in the process of shutting down. Let us do something, Mr. Speaker.

That is what the Minister of Labour said. Are those the words of a serious-minded person? Who would make such alarmist remarks, when Alcan never ceased operating, Bécancour never shut down, Kruger was closed for no more than 24 hours and Petromont remained open? Is it the responsible thing to do for a government minister to use scare tactics to settle a dispute?

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Not only is this minister the bludgeon minister, but she is the minister of economic terrorism. This gives a good idea of what to expect in the Quebec referendum debate.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Imagine the Quebec referendum debate, in which she is supposed to represent this government. She was called in because the government wanted to have a credible spokesperson in Quebec. No sooner is she in that her first move as Minister of Labour is to violate the rights of the workers. How so? Through economic terrorism.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, we cannot suspend the sitting of this House without first giving the people of Quebec this piece of advice: remember what the Minister of Labour did. Workers, whether unionized or not, do not forget how she handled her first labour relations assignment. Remember how she tried to scare people. Remember her arguments, arguments that turned out to be untrue. Remember that the Minister of Labour is to blame for the worst week we have gone through since we were elected to this Parliament.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

• (1450)

[English]

**Mr. Ray Speaker (Lethbridge, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the Reform Party and my colleagues here today support the motion before us because we want to get on with the job. We want this to move to the Senate and we want to have royal assent today. That is the responsible thing to do at this time.

I also want to talk about democracy. The House leader for the Bloc Québécois tries to epitomize democracy in the House. If members listen very carefully they will see his definition of democracy. One moment he talks about being for the worker. The next moment he talks about fighting for the economy of Canada. The next moment he is saying something about management. Very soon he is talking about the responsibilities of the Minister of Labour and how she should be involved.

He is all over the place. I cannot understand any kind of definition of democracy in these guttural utterances. It is a delaying tactic in dealing with some very important legislation before us that must move to the other place.

I would like to say to the Bloc Québécois that democracy is representing those who need representation in an emergency situation. This is demonstrated by the legislation before us.

We have had a group of people who needed immediate representation. There are the shippers, the exporters, the farmers and a number of other people who are innocent third parties who cannot be involved in the collective bargaining process. They are in need of representation in a democracy so that they have equal opportunity. What we have done in moving third reading is say those people are going to be represented in our system and are not going to be injured in any way. It is time to recognize that is an important aspect in this democratic process.

On that basis we urge the support for the motion before us, that the House rises until the call of the Chair, that we resume and give royal assent so that tomorrow the transportation system is operating and taking its rightful responsibility.

**The Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**An hon. member:** On division.

(Motion agreed to.)

## SUSPENSION OF SITTING

**The Speaker:** Is it the wish of the House to suspend the sitting to the call of the Chair?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

(The sitting of the House was suspended at 2.55 p.m.)