

before the committee, so that it can be properly debated. That is the answer to the first question.

Mr. Clark: There is no answer there at all, no answer at all.

Mr. Trudeau: The answer is that we want the committee to deal with the matter as soon as possible so that it may come out of committee by December 9.

Mr. Clark: So you keep closure in advance.

● (1425)

Mr. Trudeau: The answer to the second question about television is that the committee, I believe, is master of its own procedure in this area, and it can examine the advantages or otherwise of having television present.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): You are the master of the Liberal majority.

Mr. Trudeau: I can understand the nostalgia with which the Tories cry "Liberal majority".

Mr. Clark: Why hide your proposals?

Mr. Trudeau: Surely there is a rule in this House that the majority does have the right to take a vote at some point and prevail over the minority.

Mr. Clark: Those sheep follow you blindly.

Mr. Trudeau: Well, the Leader of the Opposition is asking for answers to his questions, and I see that he is not interested in listening to them.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): We cannot stand them.

Mr. Trudeau: He is just grumbling and growling away and following in his own way.

INQUIRY WHETHER CLOSURE DISCUSSED WITH LEADER OF NDP

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In the letter dated October 20 from the Leader of the New Democratic Party to the Prime Minister, which confirms that their conspiracy started at a meeting on October 1, there is no mention of the right of the coastal provinces of this country to own and control their offshore non-renewable resources in the same way provinces do that have resources under the soil or under fresh water. In other words, the Leader of the New Democratic Party has sold out eastern Canada—Quebec and the four Atlantic provinces.

At that meeting or at any other meetings between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the NDP, was there any discussion by the Prime Minister with the Leader of the NDP of the Prime Minister's plan to impose closure after only 24 hours of debate in this House and, after only 24 opposition members had spoken? And did the Leader of the NDP say that he

would go along with such a proposal, if it was discussed, between these two leaders?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I would point out to the hon. member from St. John's that on October 1, I met not only the Leader of the New Democratic Party but also his own leader.

Mr. Nielsen: Separately.

Mr. Clark: Separately.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, indeed, Madam Speaker, I insisted that they not come at the same time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I should let the hon. member from St. John's know that there also began on that day a conspiracy with the leader of his own party.

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, we know that the Prime Minister and the Leader of the New Democratic Party are heart to heart, brain to brain, toe to toe and nose to nose, and we know where the Leader of the New Democratic Party's nose is.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): He is the happy hooker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: And we know where the conspiracy is. In the Prime Minister's letter to the Leader of the New Democratic Party for October 21, the Prime Minister said:

I agree with you that it is desirable that the constitutional package have the broadest possible support in Parliament and in the country.

How can the Prime Minister imagine that he is going to get the broadest possible support in Parliament and in the country when all of this country, Quebec and to the east, is ignored and when closure is imposed upon this Parliament so that we are not given an opportunity on this side of the House to make any kind of meaningful contribution with just 24 speakers and 24 hours of debate? How is that going to get the broadest possible support in this country for these proposals, which should be agreed upon unanimously in this country if the right procedure had been adopted?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, in the first question the hon. member accused this government of not doing enough for the east. In the second question, he accuses us of catering only to the east and Quebec. Those were his words.

Mr. Clark: No.

An hon. Member: You are wrong.

Mr. Clark: I guess you are getting deaf, too.