

Secondly, I would like the House to listen again to the words of the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker). He spoke eloquently with respect to this bill by standing up and voting against the Liberal party when they wanted to obstruct the bill on second reading. He said something that is more relevant to this motion than anything else. By the way, Mr. Speaker, his name is Baker and we could use a few more Bakers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): He said:

I have listened to all the arguments against the bill and they don't hold any water.

Boy, that is true, Mr. Speaker, they do not hold any water. The people of Canada know that, and it is just about time this Parliament went on to deal with the bill.

I do not want to have to rely on the word of Liberal members of Parliament, as estimable as some of them are. I want to rely on their actions. Seventeen Liberals missed the vote on second reading of the bill—

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):—and three members of the Liberal party, including the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate, voted for the bill.

Now, the NDP has made some pious speeches against this bill but I happened to notice that some members, when asked, could not indicate they would not take the property tax credit if they were given the opportunity. I remember that very well in the debate. What is more, even more eloquent than that, the NDP had five members who missed the vote on Tuesday.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): What is more, all five members came from ridings with a high incidence of home ownership and of people who would like to own a home.

Despite what I have said, I have no doubt in the world that when my friends on the other side rise to speak on this motion, there will be synthetic howls of anguish over the use of closure. By this motion we are not moving closure—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Closure was used by C. D. Howe and it became an infamous rule of the House in the flag debate. It was the initiative behind the debate to ram changes in the rules of the House down the throats of members. I do not intend to do that today. What we are using here, and I think we had better make it clear to the people of Canada, is time allocation under the provisions of Standing Order 75C. This is a far gentler measure. If the Liberals were honest, they would admit that they do not greatly object to it at all, despite all the pious protestations to the contrary. In fact they objected so little to the use of time allocation that they used it five times in 1977: on January 31, on February 9, on March 29, on November 22, and on December 5. There may have been other

Time Allocation

times. I have only had an opportunity to make a very fast check.

● (1500)

Mr. MacEachen: And your party voted against all of them. Your party howled, your party screamed!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Also we are hearing from the other side of the House great appeals to parliamentary democracy and that we are destroying it. I should like to indicate to the hon. member that I know it is the kind of thing I used to say when I sat on the other side of the House of Commons. Having watched a former government claiming abuse of the rules, let me say that if I ever had any doubts about the importance of Standing Order 75C, those doubts were blasted away by the actions of that party under the leadership of the hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso (Mr. MacEachen), who should know better.

Mr. Stollery: We will wait and see what you say this time next year.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I happen to be quite a reasonable man.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): We have already spent seven days discussing this bill. Frankly, I would not use time allocation on short notice. They have been provided with a long time to debate a relatively simple tax bill.

Mr. Stollery: For \$3 billion.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I have only done this because there is no end in sight to the debate, none whatsoever. We want this bill before Christmas, if we can get it, and the time is running short. I do not think Canadians should be shortchanged by a short-range government and a short-range opposition.

An hon. Member: A short-range government?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): We want this bill before Christmas. Canadians want this bill, so do the Liberals. They do not want to be known as the party which refused to pass this bill, because they know it might jeopardize their chances in the next election.

An hon. Member: Not at all.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): However, they are not afraid of being the party which talked so long on the bill that the government became impatient to get on with other legislation and refused to bring it forward any more, knowing what a waste of time it would be. We do not intend to allow the opposition to put the government into that position, or to so ruin the proceedings of the House of Commons that the people