

Supply

Mr. Murphy: If the hon. member wants to speak from behind the curtains, he is obviously a fool.

But the problem, quite obviously, is that those people cannot go to their employers and say, "I want to vote on election day." What will happen? Quite honestly, when the employer decides that he can vote on election day, or any number of the advance poll days, the employer could be in a position, based on his or her own judgment, to say, "I will let those voters who agree with me vote on the day that I think is reasonable, and the IWA members, the steelworkers, the metalworkers and the fishermen, will vote when I determine. I will give them early morning on a Wednesday to vote and I will tell them that morning, when they arrive at work." I do not know the intention of the government, and I am very suspicious as to the intentions of the Official Opposition, but I will tell hon. members that this is not legislation which the working people of Canada want and it is certainly not legislation which the working people of western Canada want. If the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) and the hon. member from B.C., the former minister of—

An hon. Member: Small business.

Mr. Murphy: —yes, the very small-minded businessman—do not know what the people, the workers want, then I will say this: listen to those workers once they find out what that legislation is, because that legislation means they will not be able to vote, and that is all it means. They will not be able to vote and those—

Some hon. Members: Time!

Mr. Murphy: —hon. members from the Tory Party who supported this, as it was their idea in the first place, and those hon. members from the Liberal Party who supported this, including Senator Austin, are saying that they do not want the working people of Canada to vote, and when that is the case, we might as well be back in fifteenth or sixteenth century England.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Provencher rises on a point of order.

Mr. Epp: My point of order is simply that the motion we have before us and Bill C-113, which was developed out of a private member's motion, was not endorsed by the Conservative Party, and it would be refreshing if the hon. member stayed with the original point.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I gave the hon. member an opportunity to speak previously. I recognize the hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme).

Mr. Crosby: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Halifax West rises on a point of order.

Mr. Crosby: Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate the fact that the practices and precedents in the House permit you, as

Speaker and presiding officer, to recognize whomever you see fit to see. But the fact is that the tradition has developed whereby the representation has been recognized day after day and month after month in the House, and I stood in my place and you saw fit to recognize the hon. member—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member seeks—

Mr. Crosby: I ask you, Sir, what principles are you following?

Mr. Smith: It is a slight to the Chair.

Mr. Crosby: Of course it is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has been trying to observe, as scrupulously as possible, the traditional principles of the House, bearing in mind that this is an opposition motion from the New Democratic Party. At this stage, the Chair has very little option but to recognize the spokesman from the government side of the House.

Mr. Crosby: Why?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Saint-Denis.

An hon. Member: Two minutes.

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I am even ready to give two minutes to the hon. member because I believe we should exchange views.

Mr. Crosby: Stick it in your ear.

Mr. Prud'homme: But I know that if the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker were here tonight, he would be very happy to see some of us—at least, that is what he wrote me—

An hon. Member: Wrote you!

Mr. Prud'homme: —to see some of us standing up right now, who did not expect to participate in the debate, but that is exactly what the House of Commons is made of and made for.

I listened to the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) in his sanctimonious piety—and this is an acceptable term—saying, for instance, that he does not know what the government wants and that he is suspicious of the Official Opposition, meaning, of course, only that the members of the NDP, in their great piety, are the right ones to talk about that subject. If he would only read his own motion, and if he would only read Bill C-113 carefully, he would see that this is a proposal to be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. So the hon. members, after having expressed themselves in the House on second reading, having put forward the proposal, will not put the hatchet or the whip to the bill, but will only send the bill to the committee so that the hon. member for Churchill and the hon. member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby) could make their representations on behalf of their parties.