

Mr. Gottselig: I would like to add my comments to this debate. I have had the good fortune to sit in the House since November of 1984. In connection with serving my duty days, I have been here many times on Opposition Days. If the New Democratic Party showed as much concern for holding up the business of the House on some of those days as they are indicating now, more would be accomplished.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Resuming debate.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, this House has proceeded with debating of Bill C-12 long enough. Knowing that farmers are waiting for this Bill, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone):

That the question be now put.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I find this a very extraordinary procedure. We had a member of the New Democratic Party yesterday standing up and chastising the Speaker for not allowing him the privilege of debating what he considered to be a very important issue. As the Hon. Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) indicated earlier, this is an important piece of legislation from the standpoint of the agricultural community. On this side of the House, we have a strong representation in the agricultural community. We have a number of Hon. Members who want to speak out on this issue, not only in support of the Bill, but indeed to outline to the House and to the Canadian people the tremendous record that this Government has in agriculture.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: I cannot help it that the NDP does not have enough Hon. Members from the agricultural community to make a point that its members want to make. I cannot help it that they are not interested in agriculture. I cannot help it that they were wiped out in the Province of Saskatchewan because of their supercilious stand on agriculture in western Canada, particularly in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Ms. Mitchell: Let's comment on today's polls, shall we?

Mr. Mazankowski: I am glad the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) is back, because he was literally whitewashed.

Ms. Mitchell: What about today's polls?

Mr. Mazankowski: He lost.

Mr. Mayer: He was blue washed.

Mr. Mazankowski: He was blue washed, that is right. He lost every provincial seat in this federal riding, I am told. That has been a traditional New Democratic Party area. I guess that the presence of his Leader and himself did not help matters. I understand they took the Leader into Saskatchewan for a day and a half and they polled him, because they were

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going down the tube. Unfortunately, the day and a half may have been the difference.

Ms. Mitchell: What's happening federally is that you're going down the tube. What's happened to your polls?

Mr. Mazankowski: Federally? We win in Pembina, we win in Saskatchewan, and the NDP loses in B.C. One of these days they are going to have to go back to the drawing board, which means that their policies are wrong on trade, their policies are wrong on job creation, their policies are wrong on economic renewal.

Ms. Mitchell: That's not what the polls are saying.

Mr. Mazankowski: Polls do not win elections, and you know that. The polls are wrong, and I am a Pole, as well. I am not only frank, but I am a Pole as well.

Mr. Mayer: You are the kind of Pole who wins elections.

Mr. Mazankowski: The NDP has the wrong stand on interest rates and economic renewal. It is the first time in eight years that the major economic indicators have been in the single digits. People across the country know that there have been some major changes and progress has been made. One of them is in the field of agriculture, both domestically and internationally. This Minister and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) have done a tremendous job in promoting the interests of agriculture in the international arena. I would like to compliment them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Just because our Hon. Members want to stand up and support these two excellent, competent Ministers who have distinguished themselves in the most exemplary fashion and who want to speak out on behalf of the farmers of Canada, they should not be denied that privilege by a silly manoeuvre by the Official Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Do they have a farmer over there? No. Well, they do not care. I do not know whether there is a farmer in the NDP caucus.

An Hon. Member: One.

Mr. Mazankowski: One. Well, that tells you the story. We have lots of farmers and a lot of Hon. Members who are interested in the farming community. We have to have the opportunity to debate the issue. I know that good news is very hard for these people to swallow across the way. It is quite obvious that is what they are trying to achieve by cutting off the debate.

We are going to oppose this motion, Mr. Speaker, because we still have some Hon. Members who want to speak—

Mr. Riis: This will look good in the polls.