

*Summer Recess*

Constitution at a time when the economy was collapsing around us is clearly part and parcel of the problem we are facing today.

Dealing with the constitutional debate, the attitude of the government, with its coercive tactics, created bitterness and division in the country. It has certainly created anger and confrontation. I say to Your Honour that it will take a long time to heal the wounds. Rather than harmony and goodwill, there is mistrust and bitterness and division. We must simply recall what the Prime Minister intended to do when he brought in the constitutional package. He was going to make two or three different classes of provinces. Some were to have veto powers and others were not. The west was not to be treated with the same equality as the other provinces.

The emergency planning order was another example. Broad powers were delegated to respective ministers of the Crown and so-called emergency. It was unwieldy and frightening. The way in which 20 per cent of the VIA Rail passenger service was dismantled, and particularly the effect on western Canada and the tourist community of Jasper without any reference to Parliament, without any public hearings, unilaterally carried out by a stroke of the pen, is another example. Does one not think that that causes some alarm in western Canada? The hon. member referred to the Crow rate.

**Mr. Fulton:** I rise on a point of order. I do not mean to interrupt the hon. member, but I realize that there are other hon. members who want to speak and there are only ten minutes left.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I am sorry. The hon. member's microphone was not on when he spoke and I could not hear him, but perhaps the hon. member would repeat what he said.

**Mr. Fulton:** I was just pointing out, Mr. Speaker, for the clarification of the hon. member who is speaking, that it is traditional for hon. members on all sides to have an opportunity to speak, and I recognize there are only about ten minutes left in which to speak.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The hon. member for Vegreville has the floor.

• (2150)

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the hon. member's point of order was all about. I have the floor and I will maintain the floor until my time is up.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, we have heard from the Liberal Party—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is time—

**An hon. Member:** What about respect for Parliament minorities and all that?

**Mr. Fulton:** Tell us about goodwill and harmony?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, we have heard from the Liberal Party and I do not know why we have to hear from the Liberal rump, if that is the way they feel about it. I have respect for this institution and I will abide by the rules. I have certainly not interrupted the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) or any other member of the party.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I have not had a chance to speak.

**Mr. Kempling:** He is never here.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Most members in this House know that I am a reasonable and moderate person.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I for one do not have to take any lessons from the NDP about behaviour in the House and what is considered to be fair and reasonable. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important debate for some of us and—

**An hon. Member:** Because we care for the west.

**Mr. Mazankowski:**—and the NDP have had lots of opportunities to make their case in the course of the last couple of days and they will have lots of opportunities tomorrow. The fact of the matter is, it is really amazing, Mr. Speaker, that they did not move to interrupt the minister who spoke over 40 minutes—

**An hon. Member:** He is their friend.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The move to change the statutory freight rate, the Crowsnest Pass freight rates—

**An hon. Member:** We talked about that.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Yes, it has been quite a wild and hot debate, but what is very obvious about the debate that is going on out there is that there is a lot of mistrust associated with anything this government does. There is mistrust. Nobody out there trusts the government or believes in it.

We now have forced metric; they call that in western Canada the "Trudeau measurement." Here is something that really strikes at our basic heritage, acres, miles, the way in which our land was surveyed are all part and parcel of our lifestyle. Hectares and litres are a "no-no". Even in Ontario the farmers have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars as a result of their inability to mix their weed chemical; they got mixed up. They could not even phase it in with a dual process. It is forced metric. We now see the forced metric boys wanting to impose it on the cattle industry. Can you imagine selling beef by the kilogram? It is going to be an auctioneer's nightmare.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!