

Mr. Speaker, I have one more topic I wish to address in this debate. It is the conduct of the Opposition parties in Parliament in seeking to block the Free Trade Agreement.

The NDP have obstructed the process of this House at every step. Bill C-130 was held up for three weeks on specious procedural grounds. Debate in this House was delayed by recorded votes on first reading of NDP Private Members Bills for such matters as naming hockey as Canada's National Sport or marking the anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta.

All this time the NDP were proclaiming they were prevented from serious debate on the Free Trade Agreement. And when they were asked how much time they wanted for Report Stage and Third Reading, along with the Liberals they said 350 days, more time than is left in the life of this Parliament.

Nonetheless, the NDP stayed within the rules of the Parliament, however much they may have misused them. Unlike the Liberals, they did not resort to corruption of the conventions of the Constitution and Parliament.

The Leader of the Opposition returned to political life in 1984 offering himself as the man of principle, who would bring much-needed change to the nation by his leadership. He was going to sweep away the old gang from the Trudeau years and bring a fresh, new approach to the Liberal Party of Canada.

Where is he today? He is back in the hands of the politicians and back-room boys placed in the Senate at the behest of the Prime Minister he succeeded. He has fallen into the same tactics of trading in fear that they used in the 1974 Election when they said "Zap, you're frozen" on the campaign trail and instituted wage and price controls once in office.

And he has sunk to the level of calling on Senators to abandon their conventional role under the Constitution, in the pursuit of partisan advantage. Are Liberal Senators giving some second thought or representing regional interests when they agree to obey the direction of an Opposition Leader to block an initiative that the House of Commons will approve?