

*Time Allocation*

In the House of Commons it takes anywhere from 10 to 15 days to amend a Bill. If you multiply 27 pieces of legislation for amendment by 10 days each, that is 270 days. At 15 days each, that is 405 days. If we debated each of the Bills that we are amending through this omnibus Bill for 15 days, it would take us 405 days.

Allow me to list the Bills that are going to be amended. They are: the Canada Agricultural Products Standards Act, the Department of Agriculture Act, the Bank Act, the Broadcasting Act, the Canada Wheat Board Act, the Copyright Act, the Customs Act, the Customs Tariff Act, the Excise Tax Act, the Export and Import Permits Act, the Canada Grain Act, the Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act, and the Income Tax Act. We have been trying to amend the Income Tax Act for the last year and a half and have not done very well; it is still on the Order Paper. Along with amending 26 other Acts we are going to amend this Act in four days.

The other Bills to be amended are: the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, the Investment Canada Act, the Investment Companies Act, the Loan Companies Act, the Meat Import Act, the Meat Inspection Act, the National Energy Board Act, the Seeds Act, the Standards Council of Canada Act, the Statistics Act, the Textile and Clothing Board Act, the Trust Companies Act, and the Western Grain Transportation Act.

Many of these Bills have been before the House for 25 to 30 years and they are being amended by this piece of legislation. Had this been done methodically, as the Government should have done it, we would have had 27 different Bills.

No one can tell me how the Acts affecting my area of concern, agriculture, will be affected by this legislation. We needed to hear witnesses on every one of the agricultural Acts which are being changed. Instead of that, witnesses on agriculture were given a mere couple of hours each in which to comment on the Canada Agricultural Products Standard Act, the Department of Agriculture Act, the Canadian Wheat Board Act, the Western Grain Transportation Act, the Seeds Act, and the Canada Grain Act. It is not unrealistic to suggest that this legislation should have taken a year or two to get through this House.

Democratic government operates well only if it operates with the consent of the governed. That is an accepted basis of democratic governments all over the world. That does not mean that a government receives a majority one year and then forgets about the people of Canada for the next four years. It means that the government keeps in contact with the people of Canada daily and ensures that it knows how they are reacting to the legislation being put before them.

We know how the people of Canada are reacting to this legislation. Seventy per cent of the people of Canada think there should have been an election before these 27 Bills were amended. A large portion of the population, approximately 51 per cent, disagrees with this trade deal.

When I ask people on the street about the free trade deal being pushed through the House of Commons they tell me that they do not understand what it is about. There is not enough

information out there to inform them on what it is about. They do not believe what the Government is telling them and they do not believe what I am telling them. They want to know the facts from a non-political point of view.

I tell people that they are going to have to choose a government on the basis of whether or not they want this free trade agreement. Just because they do not know enough about it does not mean that they will not vote on it. I ask them how they will vote on it and they tell me that since they do not know very much about it they will vote against it. Very few people who do not know what this free trade deal is about are willing to take the chance and, in a leap of faith, vote for something which will affect them they know not how. They do not trust the people who are telling them that it is good for them.

"This country could not survive with a policy of unfettered free trade". Sounds familiar? "I'm all in favour of eliminating unfair protectionism where it exists. This is a separate country. We'd be swamped. We have in many ways a branch-plant economy, in many ways, in certain important sectors".

That quotation comes from an interview of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) by John Gray in *The Globe and Mail* in June of 1983. The Prime Minister said, "All that would happen with that kind of concept would be the boys cranking up their plants throughout the United States in bad times and shutting their entire branch plants in Canada. It's bad enough as it is". The people believed the Prime Minister when he said that in 1983 and they elected him. But he has sold his electors down the river. Canadians have not given their consent to this legislation. We should not have to go through it in the time to which we are being limited by this closure motion.

● (1840)

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, there are very few things that have happened to me in my years in this House that have made me as proud to be a Canadian and a Conservative as this trading agreement. It is one of the most significant achievements we have been able to make in this Parliament. It is significant because of what it will do for Canadians, whether they are rich or poor, young or old. Every Canadian will have a higher standard of living as a consequence of this free trade deal because prices will go down.

History tells us that when small nations have entered into singular trade relations with larger nations, it has resulted in more and better paying jobs for the smaller nations. In every case, the smaller nation was very dependent on the larger nation prior to the trading relationship. Today, when the United States sneezes, we catch a cold because 80 per cent of our exports go to the United States and one-third of our jobs relate to exports. We are affected by protectionism in the United States.