

*Extension of Sittings*

The process involved in this House is extremely important in holding the country together. This is disparate land of differing opinions from east to west, north and south. It is important that time be taken for the process to work. The Government and its Deputy House Leader, acting on behalf of the Government, failed miserably and totally this past week to follow those procedures and recognize their importance in the continuation of this country.

Whether it was the flag debate, the constitutional debate or the pipeline debate, governments of the day finally were forced to recognize that time was needed and healing must take place. Any Government which refused to learn that lesson was promptly defeated in the next election. That is what happened in the pipeline debate when the government absolutely refused to take the time necessary for the country to accept the proposition before it.

The issue before the country today is equally important. The Government did not clearly get a mandate. That has been discussed *ad nauseam* today and I will not go further into it. I am talking about the process and the ridiculous and unnecessary motion before us.

Government Members are well aware of the process involved with the Speech from the Throne. On the first day we hear the Speech from the Throne. The second day is normally devoted to the speeches given by the mover and seconder of the Speech from the Throne. As well, the Government usually presents its urgent legislation. Day three would have resulted in a leader's debate and day four, Thursday, would have been the beginning of the debate on Bill C-2. The Government would have been well into its agenda, but that was not good enough for the Government.

If it has learned anything about parliamentary procedure in this country, it will know that one makes haste slowly. It may be unhappy about the length of time consumed by following the proper procedure, but the fact is that it works. We have proved again that if it ignores the process it will not work.

The person who has thrown the roadblocks in front of this process all the way has been the Deputy Government House Leader (Mr. Lewis). No roadblocks were thrown in the way by Opposition Members because he threw them first. We did not have to erect roadblocks.

The Deputy Government House Leader insisted on attempting to speed the business by disrupting the process on the first day. He insisted on disrupting the process on day two, which prevented the leaders from making their speeches on the Speech from the Throne. How marvellous. It was not a moral victory on this side of the House, but one for the Deputy House Leader, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and all his backbenchers. What a great victory in stopping the two Opposition leaders making their speeches on the Speech from the Throne. What a great day for Parliament.

The Government claims that it knows how to manage but it cannot even manage the House of Commons. It purports to be able to manage the economy. It cannot make efficient use of time. It has wasted the time of the House.

The Government has continued to ignore the rules of the House, the lessons of history, the lessons of Parliament, and continued to display its ridiculous incompetence. At the same time it has made righteous speeches about trying to protect the country from the horrible Opposition.

We are only responding to their blatant attempts to break the rules and traditions of the House, and to change the Parliamentary process under which this country has operated for 121 years. What a stupid thing to do to this country.

At the same time that the Government House Leader has been putting roadblocks in the way of due process, he has been claiming that we must get on with the business of running the country. At no time during this debate has the Opposition indicated it was not willing to get on with it, given an opportunity. There was no opportunity for the usual Leader's debate, which is a long-held tradition. There was no opportunity to debate the legislation that the Government alleges it has called us back for. There was no preparation for a debate.

The Deputy Government House Leader threw enough roadblocks in the way of the House that even he could not extract us from it. We had to adjourn the House temporarily yesterday. It was the Opposition Parties, not the Government that got us out of that predicament. We eventually reached all-Party agreement to allow the two Opposition Leaders to begin debate on Thursday.