

*Extension of Sitings*

An agreement had been entered into by two nations to try to bring this agreement into effect by January 1, 1989, and we have every right and Canadian voters have every right to anticipate that all elected Members of all Parties will act in the national interest, co-operatively, to put it in place by January 1. That is what Canadians have the right to expect, and the Government has an obligation to provide the opportunity to do so.

By starting this Parliament last Monday, 21 days after the election, we have set an historic precedent. No Parliament has been convened so quickly after an election in all of Canada's history. The previous parliamentary record was 41 days. The Government had the obligation to call Parliament as quickly as possible, and 21 days was it.

The Canadian people have made some agonizing decisions about whether or not the Opposition was right in the fears that it raised. When I went door to door, I knocked on the door of a young woman who was about 20 years of age. It was nine o'clock on a Friday night. I introduced myself, and she broke into tears. She had a child in her arms and she started to bawl because she had been reading information that meant to her that if we passed the free trade deal, the very next morning there would be no ambulance coming to her door if there was an emergency in her home. That is the kind of fear that was out on the streets. For that young woman to have to decide who to vote for in that kind of an emotional situation was a trauma, and that trauma was repeated as well in senior citizens' homes again and again.

I recall seeing a cartoon pamphlet done by some group. I do not know where the funding for it came from, but it was full of misinformation designed to create fear. It was an ugly election campaign, but it is over. On November 21, it was over, and the obligation shifts from campaigning and all of the shenanigans that go on. The nasty parts of it and the deceptive tactics are behind us. The obligation shifts to us as individuals in this Chamber to act in the national interest on behalf of Canadians. We should be doing that co-operatively.

We are here today on the Friday of the first week of this Parliament and we have heard three speeches on the legislation to implement the Free Trade Agreement. On Monday, with unanimous consent, we could have begun the debate. We could have tabled the Bill, we could have done all kinds of things together, because this place can always do what it wants to do by unanimous consent. We could have debated the free trade initiative all this

week. Every Member of the House could have had an opportunity to speak more than once and we could still have met the timetable. But no, we have had bell ringing about nonsense.

Yesterday we had to suspend the House temporarily, though the House Leader said right from the start that the timetable and the motion that are in place supersede the normal situation and technically everything we want to happen can come to pass. However, confusion was created and the House sitting had to be suspended. A little later today, I will move an amendment to provide greater clarity for those who are new to the House and perhaps want that clarity. One of the things we discovered is that people were not clear on this so we will give them clarity. It is not necessary to do so, but we will.

Why am I not on my feet right at this moment talking about the legislation to implement free trade? It is because I cannot, because I have to debate a motion which will have the consequence of giving us 12 days of normal parliamentary debating time crammed into five days next week. We believe that there should be 12 days of debating time. Co-operatively we could have created 20 days of debating time in the two weeks.

• (1250)

The Opposition's use of dilatory tactics led to the return of our Government. In some way I should thank the Opposition for wasting the time of this House over the last four years because it helped us get re-elected. Ours was the only Party viewed by the voters of this nation as capable of governing, of having the will to do what the country needed. People perceive the opposition Parties as having wasted time and of not being serious about their concerns. That will be the consequence of the kind of tactic that has been going on in this House all this week.

On average it costs \$1 million a day to run this place. We have been forced into a position of spending today's \$1 million debating procedural motions. We have spent \$5 million for three speeches on free trade this week. Look at those three speeches. Are they worth \$1.75 million a piece? Were they that well crafted and delivered? I suggest not. In the private sector you could not sell those speeches for \$1.5 million or \$1.75 million.

**Mr. Darling:** Perhaps \$50 each.

**Mr. Hawkes:** I hear someone say \$50 each.