

*Time Allocation**[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, I have paid very close attention to the remarks the Hon. Minister has just made. He was saying on the one hand that he was under no obligation to notify us before introducing his bill for first reading and that it was simply out of his great generosity and kindness that he had given members of the Opposition advance notice of his intention to introduce this bill.

Preaching virtue today, the Minister also told us how we should respect our parliamentary traditions and Standing Orders.

[English]

It is very interesting to hear the Minister, the Conservatives and the Government preaching to us about the virtues of respecting the Standing Orders. That is a little hard to take, coming from a political party that stormed the Speaker's chair not many years ago. As I was listening to the Minister's remarks, I wondered where he was on the day some Tories stormed the Speaker's chair. He told us that we should respect the Standing Orders, and accused the Opposition of being obstructionist.

Mr. Belsher: What would you call it?

Mr. Boudria: I suggest to Conservative Members opposite that we have only had two hours of debate on this Bill. The Member opposite who is heckling has not even had the opportunity to participate in the debate yet. Therefore, I am standing here today to protect the rights of that Tory Member, because I want to hear his speech. That is why I believe it is extremely unfair that all Members have not had an opportunity to make their contributions to this very important debate.

Let me digress for one moment—

Mr. Lewis: How will we be able to tell?

Mr. Boudria:—and talk about the issue of generic drugs itself. I know this upsets the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader (Mr. Lewis) who has just been groaning and making other selective noises which I do not care to describe in any further detail.

Mr. Lewis: It is just as a result of your speech.

Mr. Boudria: I remind him that our Party is not against increasing research. Of course the Liberals want to increase research, as do all Members. As a matter of fact, the previous Liberal Government, in its wisdom, appointed the Eastman Commission. However, the Tories took the constructive remarks made by Dr. Eastman, altered them and included more in order to please the multinational, primarily American-owned, foreign companies. The President of the United States came to the Shamrock Summit in Quebec City a number of years ago and probably made a cozy deal with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). That is why the Bill with which we are concerned is not in the interest of Canadians.

The issue is not one of opposing the protection of intellectual property rights. Doctor Eastman suggested a specific period,

approximately four years, to protect those property rights. However, we must also protect the consumers because they are the ones who send us here. They are the voters. Not many multinationals voted for me, for you or anyone else in the room. The people of Canada sent us here to protect their interests and that is why it is important for us to speak to this motion and indicate to the Government that two hours of debate on such an important issue is insufficient.

[Translation]

That is why the Government should withdraw its motion, Mr. Speaker. We should allow the debate to continue, so that all Hon. Members may take part in this debate, for instance the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Grondin) who wants absolutely to make his contribution, but who, unfortunately, is not likely to have the opportunity to do so. Tory members opposite are so silent. We have heard the expression "silent majority", Mr. Speaker, but we have now a new definition for it and it is sitting right in front of me.

• (1310)

[English]

These Tories give a new meaning to the expression "silent majority". They are very silent indeed. I hear the Hon. Member opposite heckling. He, of course, is a member of that very vast silent majority, those people who never speak in the House. I challenge the Hon. Member to make his contribution to this debate, if the Government House Leader permits him to do so, because we are going to have all the debate stifled, not just the debate of the opposition. Government Members will not be able to contribute to the debate on one of the most important pieces of legislation to come before this Parliament. That is the respect the Tories have for the rules.

The Minister told us a little earlier today that we have to respect the Standing Orders. He said that only a few minutes after I brought to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that a Standing Order, whereby the Government had to answer opposition questions within 45 days, had been broken on three separate occasions. It involved questions I posed earlier today.

This Government, the Conservative Party, is in no position to preach virtue to anyone. It should act as an example and obey the rules itself. The Government should not try to stifle debate and do all the other things it does to get itself out of potentially embarrassing situations, like trying to stop members of the Opposition from speaking. The Government should know better by now. It has received a raking in the public opinion polls lately and one would think the Conservatives would realize their mistake and respect our parliamentary institution. But obviously they have not, and that is unfortunate. Perhaps they never will. The people of Canada gave the Tories a chance and now Canadians are sorry. The people of Canada said to the Tories, you made a lot of promises, 338 of them, so give it a try, but they are sorry now.