

It cannot wait to force these kinds of things through the House . . . The same little group comes in here on every closure motion. The same little group of parliamentary eunuchs, the same group of parliamentary assassins—the House leader, the assistant House leader, the hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans), the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussièrès)—are in here all the time, assassinating this House and removing the good from the House. That is why I call them the parliamentary eunuchs.

Those were the words of one of the leaders in the Conservative Party, the Minister for International Trade and the former Minister of Transport. When he was on this side of the House, he was complaining about time allocation and about closure when it was imposed by the Liberal Government of the day.

It is no wonder the Canadian people say that the Conservative Party's Government is the most unpopular Government in the history of Canada. It says one thing in opposition and another thing in government, and it says it time and time again.

The Hon. Member for Mackenzie (Mr. Scowen) is shaking his head in disgust right now. As a new Member, he cannot understand why the great Minister for International Trade would say one thing in opposition and another thing in government. That is why the Canadian people do not trust that Government across the way. That is why the Government will lose the majority of its parliamentary seats when the election is called. It says one thing in opposition and another thing in government.

Once again, the Minister for International Trade said in 1981 the following:

This is an illustration of what has happened to Canada. Today we have a parliamentary system of government without any checks and balances and without the separation of powers. The Prime Minister has a group of docile sheep in his caucus—

Mr. Tobin: Bleating.

Mr. Nystrom: If we call the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) and the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan) docile sheep, what name do we have for the people sitting on the backbenches of the Conservative Party today? They are not even docile sheep. They cannot even bleat. They will not even stand up on their hind feet and speak their minds. They are willing to be puppets on the end of the string of the Prime Minister's Office, trying to impress him because they want to be Parliamentary Secretaries or chairmen of committees or perhaps even Ministers of the Crown. That will just not happen.

The great Minister for International Trade said in 1981:

They just say, "Baaa, sir, baaa, sir, pass it through the House, sir". As long as they do that, he has absolute power. This Prime Minister has absolute power as long as the majority in his caucus give him that unlimited power. They are so busy with their noses in the patronage trough and the power trough that they neither know nor care what happens to this Parliament, and we can expect nothing from them.

The Hon. Member for St. John's West was talking about patronage, time allocation and docile sheep in the old Government. I can think of no better way to describe the present Conservative caucus, a caucus that would allow, after seven

hours of debate on a very important Bill, the government House Leader to move time allocation.

I see sitting across the way the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart). I looked up a quote in *Hansard* from February 12, 1981. That Hon. member is quoted objecting to time allocation and closure and using some pretty strong language about the former Government. I ask him now to rise and say the same thing about this Prime Minister who is abusing his majority. The Hon. Member for Simcoe South said the following:

This chamber should be the embodiment of free speech. It should be the epitome of all those basic rights we have come to hold so sacred in this great country of ours. I personally will not stand idly by and be gagged by a Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who has nothing but contempt for Parliament and who has said so.

I cannot believe those words. They are so beautiful. They sound like intelligent words coming from an intelligent Member. I ask that Member now, with seven more years of parliamentary experience, to rise and say the same thing about this Prime Minister that he said about that one, because this Prime Minister is doing exactly the same thing in gagging Parliament and free speech.

That Hon. Member went on to say:

There are no marionettes on this side of the House. Where are the voices of protest in the government ranks? There has to be one person who will speak the truth. Have government backbenchers become the trained seals about which I spoke? Are they so browbeaten that they are afraid to speak out in defence of the freedom of this House?

If we lose freedom of speech, as we have started to lose freedom in our economy—

And so on. If the Hon. Member for Simcoe South could say that in 1981, 1982 or 1983, why does he not have the courage of his convictions and the consistency in his state of mind to say the same thing now? I ask him to rise and explain that to the House. That is another reason why this Party across the way is losing power and popularity with the people of Canada.

The people of Canada want from their politicians honesty and consistency. I say: Where is the Minister for International Trade? Where is the Hon. Member for Simcoe South? He made these speeches in opposition that misled the Canadian people in September, 1984. The Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes), sitting across the way in his sanctimonious, pious, parsimonious manner—

• (1250)

Mr. Hawkes: Parsimonious?

Mr. Nystrom: —gets up and talks about the Government being free, benevolent, and offering all kinds of time for debate. Where was he a few years ago in opposition when time allocation was brought in after 15 hours or 12 hours or 10 hours of debate? He called that a denial of freedom of speech. He called that an abuse of Parliament.

There are very few Bills as important as the Air Canada Bill before us today. It represents a fundamental change in the way