

*Time Allocation*

The paper goes on to state that the public support generated should be recognized as extremely soft and likely to evaporate rapidly if the debate is allowed to get out of control. Two and a half years ago the strategy was set. It was: "Do not let the people know. Keep it in darkness. Keep it restricted. Keep it confined. Keep it under cover. Oh, it is okay to spend \$30 million or \$40 million in propaganda. We can sort of get all the printing presses wound up. We can get all our Conservative public relations firms into the trough putting forward all kinds of bright messages. But for goodness sake don't let Parliament have the right to examine what we are going to do—\$35 million and \$40 million of PR propaganda for five or six hours of debate at report stage looking at 77 amendments".

What that basically says is that this is a Government that has replaced Parliament with a rule of propaganda. Today, when we spoke in Question Period about the victims of the trade agreement, the grape workers in the Okanagan and in southern Ontario, the manufacturing group in Granby, and all the other workers—the 186,000 workers that the Economic Council of Canada has described as going to lose their jobs—we see that there will be victims. But the most serious, the greatest loss will be the integrity and sanctity of this Chamber itself. The greatest casualty of the Canada-U.S. trade negotiation is the Parliament of Canada. It is an institution that is central and integral to our identity as a country but which has been abused, manipulated and tortured out of its rules, out of its procedures and out of its proper operation simply to support the maniacal and fanatical obsession to get this deal into place according to the timetable set by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

The Prime Minister, who has a natural gift for counterfeit, has bestowed that same endowment on his friends and allies. All the Tories have now become true believers. I weep. I came into Parliament at a time when there were some great Conservative parliamentarians, for example, Ged Baldwin and Walter Baker, people that one could look up to as Members who would defend the rights of the House. What a sad and sorry lot sits across from us now. Ged Baldwin and the late Walter Baker must regret that they ever used the word "Progressive" Conservative because it has been so corrupted by the present Government. It has been corrupted in part by the agreement itself. The Conservatives have abandoned their traditions, their beliefs, and their commitment to defending the sanctity of this country, and in so doing they have trampled on the rights of Parliament.

● (1610)

The Deputy Government House Leader has stated that there has been enough examination, and "Why would people want to debate more than nine or ten hours on the trade agreement?" It is a document which the Government itself states is the singular most important piece of legislation in this administration.

When I was Minister of Transport in the previous administration, we brought in the Western Grain Transportation Act. It was an important piece of legislation affecting western Canada, but not nearly as comprehensive or extensive as the

trade legislation which covers 26 other Acts. The Western Grain Transportation Act was debated for 58 hours and 30 minutes at report stage alone, and 37 hours at second reading. That amount of time is four or five times what the Government has allowed the House to debate on the trade legislation. The Western Grain Transportation Act was a Bill of significance, but not nearly of the consequence of the Bill in front of us. To feign that somehow "the devil made them do it" and that the Government has now been forced into bringing in time allocation is sheer hypocrisy and deception.

We knew what we were up against. In a rare moment of lucidity when he was not blustering and bluffing his way around the country, the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie), said out straight: "I am not going to let this Bill go more than two or three weeks". He is the Minister responsible. We do not see him very much, but we are told that he is responsible.

The fact of the matter is that the Government has a timetable. It had a timetable from the beginning. The Minister for International Trade announced the timetable, and that the timetable was that the Government was going to complete this Bill by the third or fourth week in August. That is what the Minister said. Well, the Government is on its timetable, but in achieving it the Minister and the Prime Minister have been prepared to torture and twist the rights of the House, and that is shameful.

In attempting to achieve a win on the trade agreement the Government is prepared to lose in the surrendering of Parliament. In the classic words of the old play: "They stoop to conquer". They reach down to a level in order to get what they want most of all. We will have some opportunity to argue whether or not it is worth it, but surely to goodness do Members of the House, particularly on the government side, not recognize the damage and the travesty they are doing to an institution that they took a sworn oath to uphold? Do they really think that Canadians will buy their argument for allowing three or four days of debate on second reading?

Do they really think that Canadians will buy their argument for allowing three weeks in committee? The committee was not allowed to travel outside Ottawa, it had a restricted number of people who could come before it, and it was not allowed to talk to individuals, only organizations. Now at report stage there are 77 legitimate amendments accepted by the Chair, therefore designed to be relevant, but the Government will only give us four days to debate them. Does the Government think that the Canadian people will buy a piece of legislation that affects the Bank Act, investment, energy, agriculture, the service industry, and customs duties, and that we are to be allowed to debate that in all its stages in four days and consider that to be a proper and honest expression of parliamentary view? It is impossible. We know now that it will be impossible to get to anywhere near all the amendments and allow Members a proper opportunity to express themselves on important amendments dealing with the changes in this country.