

*Supply*

States is indifferent to what happens in politics in Canada. Its television stations or news hours on radio discuss the early Canadian returns. The only way to stop communications which cause stresses and strains within the country is to include a period of delay before the counting starts, not by threatening everyone with fines and more regulations or with a big iron fist in their faces. Then the count would come out with everyone having voted not knowing in advance of poll closing what others have done.

I have covered the points which I consider to be important. I urge the government to withdraw Bill C-113. It should not bring it forward. The government should rethink the time schedules in Clause 2(5). It should get away from that approach altogether, or it will cause more alienation in the west. I have tried to keep my reasoning as cool and calm as I can on this issue and on the bill which could have a disastrous effect upon the entire democratic process in my particular region. If the government carries on with Bill C-113, it will disenfranchise the voters of British Columbia, Yukon and Alberta. It should hear some of the comments expressed in this debate, rethink the issue, meet in caucus on it, and come up with something which will work and be good for the country.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House of Commons from western Canada, I should like to express the concerns of my constituents and of many people who live in western Canada about Bill C-113. It is amazing that the Liberal government is asking, in this particular bill, the people in British Columbia and Yukon to vote before 5.30 o'clock. Let me explain the problem I foresee. In my rather short experience I have worked as a campaign organizer, campaign manager and as an official agent in various election campaigns. I know that the majority of voters are people who work.

Let me explain what happens in a city like Thompson, Manitoba. At two o'clock on election day a campaign worker will receive a telephone call, for example, from a plant worker who has been told by his employer that he can have four hours off to vote, but this means that the employee is required to go to his boss and request time off to vote. A large number of Canadian voters cannot vote because they are unable to obtain the time off they wish. Some cashiers, clerks and persons who stock shelves, have requested time off to vote, and employers have said no. Some employers have not allowed employees the four hours off to vote. Certainly all voters want to vote, but under our system employers can determine who can vote and who cannot vote.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** This is why the Liberals are so weak in the west.

**Mr. Murphy:** The Liberals do not seem to care. A Liberal member right across from me is saying that it does not matter.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I will never let this young colleague of ours get away with a comment such as that. That is not what I said. Too often we allow such comments to go unnoticed. This is not what I said.

The hon. member should listen more attentively. I do not want such comments to be registered under my name because it is not what I said. If the hon. member did not hear, he can always check the "blues" later.

**An hon. Member:** He never referred to you by name; don't be so sensitive.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Well, I am the only one across from him.

**Mr. Murphy:** I did not realize that there was only one Liberal member across from me. If he was the only Liberal member heckling, then of course this applies to him. If there were other Liberal members heckling—

**Mr. Fisher:** Name them!

**Mr. Hopkins:** What do you mean by "if"?

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Get back to your speech.

**Mr. Murphy:**—then he has no right at all to rise on a point of order. Let me be more precise by referring to what will happen to western Canadians who live in British Columbia, Yukon or in Saskatchewan. With this legislation proposed by the Liberal government, people will be able to vote by 5.30 at night or 6.30 at night, but they will only get time off to vote when their employers decide to give it to them. Employers can decide when employees receive four hours off work to vote, or when employees can obtain four hours off to vote in any advance poll.

Until the present time there have been many problems with employers—and I use Safeway of Canada as an example—saying that employees can have time off if they want it. The employer says, "You can have the time if you want". There are many situations where the employee will go to his manager, whether or not he is unionized, to say that he does want the four hours allowed to him by Canadian law in order to vote. The employer will say to him that he does not appreciate the fact that he wants to go to vote. The employer asks, "Are you sure you want those four hours?" As someone who has been a campaign manager and organizer in the past, I know that people do not get those four hours. Those employers who do not care for the rights of employees say, "You do not want that right." If you happen to live in the riding of Provencher, I am sure that the member who represents that riding or some other member would not support you in that particular case.

● (2140)

I have had to fight during every federal or provincial election I have been involved in to convince the employer that all employees have a right to vote. All employees have the right to have four hours in which to vote. Just review what this legislation says.

**Mr. Huntington:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am sure that the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy), in putting forward his argument, does not want to be completely misleading and does not want to insult the highest percentage