

Mrs. Finestone: Not true.

Mr. Hawkes: To highlight their lack of respect for the democratic process and the issue of choice for people, we had a statement yesterday by the Liberal Leader in the Senate. How much respect does that unelected Chamber, full of well paid people appointed by the previous Government have for the democratic process when it tells us in advance, simply on the basis of a Liberal caucus meeting, that it does not matter what democratic people do in the Chamber, it does not matter that three-quarters of the people elected to this Chamber by the voters of this country want this legislation, the Senate will stall and stall and stall and it will not see the light of day?

• (1230)

Mr. Gauthier: That's a lie, and you know it.

Mr. Hawkes: The Whip for the Liberal Party says that that's a lie and I know it. Members of the Liberal Party probably cost the taxpayers of this country \$500 million on the immigration Bill alone.

Mrs. Finestone: Look at the mistakes that you made all the way.

Mr. Hawkes: Stalling on Bill C-55 cost \$500 million of the taxpayers' money. There was failure to put in place something that the democratically elected people of this country said was right and proper. They stalled for a year. The cost of that, Mr. Speaker, was enormous.

That unelected Chamber is costing Canadians today in the form of higher interest rates. Every time somebody's mortgage goes up a little, or their credit card rate goes up, they should look at the Liberal Party of Canada and its control of the Senate. It is the threat by the Leader of Liberal Party to tear up the free trade agreement, the decision by the Senate to stall the will of the democratically elected Chamber, that is causing problems in the market, higher interest rates, and a devalued dollar. The only antidote to that is the polls. The polls are saying that Canadian people understand that democracy should prevail, appointed people should not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Mount Royal.

Mrs. Finestone: I was concerned with the relevancy of the remarks made by the previous speaker to the child care Bill. However, as he has terminated his address, we will leave it at that. I hope he will be more relevant next time.

Mr. Hawkes: This is not a debate on the child care Bill, Mr. Speaker, it is a debate on the motion to allocate time, and all of these comments are relevant to that motion. The opposition Members consistently filibuster things that they do not agree with. It does not matter if it is good for Canadians. If they believe it is good for their electoral chances they filibuster.

I just came out of a committee meeting this morning on conflict of interest legislation. We met yesterday to attempt to organize the committee. We met again today, and we are going to meet again at 3.30 p.m. because the opposition

Time Allocation

Members are filibustering. They do not want conflict of interest legislation that governs their behaviour as well government Members' behaviour, and they are trying to be clever about it. They simply waste time, waste time, waste time. On this Bill they have wasted lots of time.

It should be clear that the most significant protection that Canadians have in terms of the actions of their Government is their vote. It is their ballot and their opportunity to toss a Government out, put in a new Government, or to continue a Government.

Mr. Gauthier: They are going to boot you out so fast, Jim, you would not have a chance to say anything.

Mr. Hawkes: No Government can afford to be held hostage to the views of a minority in this Chamber. The majority must prevail. That is what democracy is all about. Democracy says that it is time to pass this legislation to put more money in the hands of children and to give more choice to parents to respect the nature of this country and its jurisdictions. That is what the Bill and the policy is about. The majority of Members in this Chamber want that policy in place, and I hope that the other place, controlled by Liberals, will smarten up, respect the voters of this country, and respect the democratic process.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on the Government's motion to limit the debate on Bill C-144.

I think it is the height of hypocrisy for this Government to tell Canadians that it is so concerned about day care, and then turn around and say it is not interested in hearing the views of their elected representatives.

Mr. Speaker, in fact it has acknowledged its incompetence in this area by letting Members like the Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) speak to the Bill. He talked about everything except the Bill and why it was necessary to discuss it in the House. He did not explain why the Government is imposing closure. He did not explain why this Government wants to rush the Bill through the House. He did none of these things. He simply talked about matters that had no connection whatsoever with the business before the House.

[English]

We have before us a motion to limit debate. It is true, as previous speakers have said, that this Government has used time allocation, limitation, and closure more than any other Government. It has a massive majority in this House, yet it cannot control the agenda, or make up its mind so that we can come to terms with the work.

The Government brought in this bill on July 25. I will go through the chronology of how the Bill went through the House. On July 25, 1988, first reading of the Bill; on second reading three days of debate on August 11, 17, and 23. Government Members are the ones who called Orders of the Day. They are the ones responsible for waiting, waffling, and for not being able to make up their minds on this issue. They come in here in August and put in three days of debate.