

*Government Orders*

finally, the Prime Minister, admitting that the Americans are breaking the spirit of the free trade agreement.

Well, surprise, surprise. What the Prime Minister does not realize is that as we speak, Canadians are crying out for the government to bring leadership out from behind the back doors and out to the front doors and to the floor of Parliament and to the floor of the union halls and meeting rooms across the country, but it is not going to happen by closing down Parliament.

[Translation]

I imagine the hon. member is interested in the background. If he is, he should know that it is the first time in the history of our country and of many governments that a government applies closure to ram through bad rules that will silence members in this House.

The Prime Minister claims to be modernizing Parliament.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** He wants to close it down.

**Mme Copps:** Mr. Speaker, he is not modernizing Parliament. This is a fraud, a sham. The fact of matter is that he would rather have a presidential system, with no question period. He wants to be like President Reagan and not have to be accountable. He does not want to come here and answer the real—

The hon. member is whining. I made the point in this House today that Montreal has become Canada's unemployment capital. We also know that, on many occasions, the policies of this government have brought the Canadian economy down. We know, for instance, that the mind of this government is already made up to dispose of de Havilland and to give Boeing the go ahead to sell the business to the governments of France and Italy. This will certainly cause many job losses in Montreal.

Figures have even shown that nearly half of the raw materials used by de Havilland come from Montreal and Quebec. When I raised the matter in the House, the so-called Minister of Industry said these were wroug figures, pure liberal fabrication.

Do you know what the source of these figures is, Mr. Speaker? These figures showing that 50 per cent of the raw materials used by de Havilland come from Montreal and Quebec were obtained from the Boeing company. They did not originate from the Liberal Party or the

Opposition but from the Boeing company, and this is one of the reasons why we must have a question period, to expose the fraud and this government's lack of industrial policies.

I want to be in this House and do my duty and speak on behalf of the people who are unemployed in my riding and in Montreal, because, as you can see, not one conservative member has the courage to rise to speak about the failure of the economic policies of this government. They sit quietly, as if this was going to be the greatest parliamentary reform, when then know full well that, in fact, this means the closing down of Parliament.

Since this government came to power, the Prime Minister has attached our systems, our institutions, the economic and social fabric of this country on many occasions and now he is closing down the last place where we could really speak out for the ordinary people.

**Mr. Langlois:** That is incredible!

**Ms. Copps:** The hon. member shakes his head and says it is incredible. I think there may be a lack of respect for Parliament, because if there is one place where the unemployed of Montreal will be able to air their problems, it is here, in Parliament. When the hon. member claims that by cutting Parliament's discussion time by 25 per cent, we will help democracy, I would like him to tell me how that can be done.

Mr. Speaker, when Parliament was not sitting, when we were about to go to war and the Prime Minister remained behind closed curtains in the Langevin Block, without having the courage to recall Parliament on such a fundamental question as war, did the member speak up for the right of Parliament? Did the member get up to say there is one place where a decision should be made on this matter of going to war and it is not in Sherbrooke or in Montreal but here in the Parliament of Canada?

It is true that Canadians are becoming increasingly cynical because they see the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers ignore Parliament's role. They ignore the role of Parliament, Mr. Speaker, even in constitutional matters. We saw the Prime Minister tie members' hands regarding the federal parliamentary committee. He told the Beaudoin-Edwards Committee to go and find out.