

Time Allocation

Madam Speaker, this Government will stop at nothing to push the minority around in this House. However, I leave it to the Chair to decide.

The Parliamentary Secretary let us know earlier that we have not heard the last of this Government's attempts to push and shove and use Standing Order 117, because as far as they are concerned, that is their policy. Well, this is no way to create a climate that is conducive to obtaining the co-operation of the Official Opposition. It makes things extremely difficult for the Official Opposition, Madam Speaker, since there are so few of us. We can hardly be expected to be available at all times to do our work in committee, in the House and all the other business we have to accomplish in a day's work. After all, we want our contribution, both in committee and in this House, to be worthwhile.

Personally, I didn't have time to speak to the Air Canada Bill because the Committee on Official Languages is sitting three times a week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I would have liked to be in the House when the debate took place, but I could not, because I had business to attend to elsewhere. Many Members would like to speak to Bill C-129, and although they may not be here in the House right now, they certainly do want to take part in this important debate.

I suggest that the Government be careful if it is up to its old tricks, because the Opposition knows a trick or two as well. There are a few chapters missing in their book on dirty tricks, Madam Speaker, and if they want to start playing this kind of game, they better watch out.

An Hon. Member: The Nielsen bible.

● (1240)

[English]

Mr. Tobin: The Nielsen bible.

Mr. Gauthier: Yes, the Nielsen bible, the book of dirty tricks written by the so-called specialist. He did not write all the dirty tricks. There are still some unwritten, and we may use some of them.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Madam Speaker, the motion before us today is a motion under Standing Order 117 to allocate time on the Air Canada Bill. I want to oppose that motion very strenuously on behalf of our Party.

We have been dealing with the Air Canada Bill in the House for only some seven hours, and after some seven hours only, the Government has moved to allocate time, to bring down the guillotine. That is probably without precedent, or certainly it is very, very rare for a Government to use its majority this early in a debate on a very important, fundamental issue. Where is democracy? Where is freedom of speech when the Government moves that quickly and ruthlessly to allocate time?

The Deputy House Leader said that we are railing about an issue that is now popular around the world. He is talking about

privatization. He is worshipping Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and Jacques Chirac. I would remind the Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) that Jacques Chirac was clobbered in the presidential election campaign in France, and one reason for that was his policies.

[Translation]

He was rejected by the French people, Madam Speaker, and he was trounced by the President, François Mitterand, during the presidential elections in France six weeks ago. A week from now, at the second voting round, France will have a majority socialist government. And this is also thanks to Mr. Chirac's domestic policy, Madam Speaker. It's not just Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan. We also have Mr. Chirac, in France. Another Conservative. And we have exactly the same problem here in Canada, Madam Speaker with the guy from Baie-Comeau!

[English]

We will fight as hard as we can to make sure that we keep Air Canada Canadian, to make sure that we protect this great Canadian institution which is part of the heritage of Canada. It was fought for and defended by many Conservative leaders over the last 50 or 52 years. We will not have our freedom of speech thwarted by a Conservative majority that wants to implement in Canada the political agenda of Jacques Chirac, Margaret Thatcher or Ronald Reagan.

The Minister says that the Government is being very generous in terms of the debate it is allowing on the Air Canada privatization Bill. I wish he would think back to four or five years ago when he and his Party were in opposition and the Liberal Government brought in time allocation. What did the Party across the way say then? It said it was a denial of free speech, that it was the guillotine, that it was the Government of Mr. Trudeau using its majority. Does the Minister remember that? Of course, he was making speeches on this side of the House about the unfair use of time allocation.

Mr. Tobin: Just quote Stephen Lewis's speech.

Mr. Nystrom: I have been told to quote Stephen Lewis's speech. Instead, I will quote the speech of the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie).

On June 9, 1981, he said the following:

Mr. Speaker, this is a continuation of the philosophy of the government. For example, first, the English Parliament must adopt any dog's breakfast the government sends over to them as a Constitution, and must hold its nose and pass it.

Another illustration of that attitude is that we have to hold our noses and pass whatever this government brings to the House, and pass it quickly. This comes from a closure-crazed government, a government which suffers from the crime of parliamentary bestiality.

Whatever that is, Madam Speaker. That was the Minister for International Trade talking about parliamentary bestiality when the Liberal Government brought in time allocation on one of his favourite Bills in 1981. He went on to say: