

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Milliken:** She can hardly wait. I am glad to hear it because she is going to get it.

The hon. member for North Island—Powell River tried to suggest that somehow this government in adopting time allocation techniques and applying them to this debate today was acting in the same way that Liberal governments have in the past. I want to correct that record. I have some figures here to help me. Perhaps the member for North Island—Powell River will recant such heresy.

The facts are that in the period from 1913 to 1981, which was the last time closure was used before this government took office, closure was used a total of 22 times.

Since this government took office closure has been used over 16 times. In fact, closure has been used almost as much in the eight years that this disastrous government has occupied the Treasury benches as it had been in something like 48 years before that. It gives some indication of the depravity of the current government in its constant abuse of the rules and procedures of this House.

I could go on. I could cite the figures for use of time allocation, under which we are labouring today, not closure, and the government has used it more often than it has closure.

To suggest that somehow this pattern reflects previous government patterns is false. The hon. member for North Island—Powell River should check his facts before he spouts such drivel and nonsense in the House.

I want to urge him to take some care because we all know what is going on in the Ontario legislature these days.

**Ms. Langan:** Look at them, not us.

**Mr. Milliken:** The hon. member for Mission—Coquitlam says: "Look at them, not us". Her colleagues in the Ontario legislature have introduced a whole bunch of new rules that will gag the Ontario legislature and silence the opposition, the very effective opposition being offered there by my colleagues in the Liberal Party.

In fact there was a picture the other day on the front page of *The Ottawa Citizen* of her leader in this House holding up the hand of the premier of Ontario supporting—

**Ms. Langan:** She is proud to do it.

**Mr. Milliken:** The hon. member for Mission—Coquitlam says: "She is proud to do it". She and her colleagues in this House condemned this government for using closure and gagging the House when her colleague, the premier of Ontario, is doing exactly the same thing in the Ontario legislature.

I really find it quite shameful and disgraceful. There is a lot of hypocrisy in this action.

**Mr. Angus:** What are they doing?

**Mr. Milliken:** The hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan, who is joining his soul mates on the Tory benches for the time being, is yelling at me to tell them what they are doing. I am telling them what they are doing. They are introducing a series of rule changes that will gag the opposition. They are threatening to use closure and they are telling the members of the opposition they are going to have to sit all summer to pass very unpalatable and unpopular legislation.

Had the hon. member tried the same thing here in the course of the GST debate we would still be here. The New Democratic Party pandered to the wishes of the Conservative majority, urged the government to use closure by using stalling techniques in the House, minimizing debate on the bill and preventing us in the Liberal opposition from presenting the arguments and concerns of Canadians against that bill in this House.

That is the way the New Democratic Party and the Tories get into bed together. That is the way they get into bed together, and that is what they are doing in the Ontario legislature. They are trying to gag the Official Opposition, and that is exactly what is going on here today.

The New Democrats pretend outrage at the use of closure then they say it is the Liberals and Conservatives that are doing it, when all the time it is the New Democrats that jump at the chance to silence intelligent capable opposition offered by the Liberal Party when they get into office.

**Ms. Langan:** Just like you are doing right now.

**Mr. Milliken:** Exactly. As the hon. member for Mission—Coquitlam says, much like I am putting forward right now.

I am glad she is enjoying my speech.