

*Summer Recess*

by various provincial programs could very well invite American border restrictions or even closures of that border for hogs and pork and for beef and cattle. That would be a tragedy.

I hope the ministers seriously considered the cattlemen's carefully developed plan for what we now know is a deferred income-averaging trust concept that would essentially provide an individual stabilization program for cattle producers. The funds from such trust accounts could very well be used to supplement the Farm Credit Corporation which is now so short of capital funds.

Finally, I hope the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin)—I am sorry he is not here—will not give up on the Crow freight rate issue. I appreciate his genuine interest in this very touchy subject, especially last fall, when he made a determined effort to travel around the country making some comments on it and occasionally speaking in the House on it. He knows the concerns of some of us on this very special issue, and I appreciate his genuine interest. All I can say is that the Crow issue must be resolved. The two major agricultural groups are close to a compromise right now. These two, of course, are the western agricultural conference and the commodity coalition group. I urge the transport minister to once again renew his interest in this fundamentally important issue and encourage a final compromise by the farmers of western Canada themselves. I thank Your Honour and hon. members for this opportunity.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Henri Tousignant (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted of course to take part in this debate. However, at the same time I feel somewhat distressed in view of the fact that for the past week we have been rehashing the same subjects and making the same futile and totally useless remarks in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I would be inclined to describe this debate as a demagogic marathon. In fact it is almost embarrassing to have to take the floor here tonight and to repeat once more what has been said a million times. Yes, Mr. Speaker, a million times. The speeches I have listened to for nearly a week could all be summarized in one single speech.

It seems now that honourable members opposite have just made a discovery. It seems that all our domestic problems and perhaps even all international problems should be settled before the adjournment of this House. It makes one wonder whether the provincial legislatures and all the legislative assemblies of other countries settle all those problems before adjourning. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe so.

Therefore, I shall be very brief because, as I have just mentioned, we have already listened to this kind of speech a million times. But what have we also heard Mr. Speaker for the past week? Let us try briefly to analyse the situation. First, the opposition makes me think somewhat of a family with children some of whom are learning to walk and others

who already know how to walk. The opposition makes me think a little of the former who are unable to follow their big brothers attempting to run. The opposition tacks on to the government somewhat in the same way, trying to run behind their big brothers and sisters but they trip and fall. Their only alternative then is to cry, to get angry and to hang on. This is somewhat the situation which occurs in this House at the present time with an opposition which is tagging along with the government.

What have we done over the last week? To begin with we talked about the postal strike. Imagine! The House had to sit. The government had to stay in the House to legislate the postal workers back to work. Big deal. Although the normal negotiation process was going on. Of course, we would all like to see this dispute settled but there is never a strike which has not been harmful to someone. It is quite clear that strikes are no joke but it is not the duty of the government as we have said on many occasions, to rush in every time a strike occurs somewhere and to attempt to settle it in all sorts of ways especially through legislation.

Then, all of a sudden they realize the weakness of their argument and they gradually shifted to the issue of the uranium cartel. I could tell honourable members opposite that they too represent a cartel, the demagoguery cartel. When we were dealing with the constitution, they attempted by all sorts of innuendos to tarnish some reputations—

**Mr. Dionne (Chicoutimi):** A Conservative specialty!

**Mr. Tousignant:** A specialty indeed of making innuendos against this one or that one.

**Mr. Dionne (Chicoutimi):** Wrecking reputations!

**Mr. Tousignant:** Giving people a bad name!

For a while, the opposition has been demonstrating its inability, its lack of intellectual power and its real incapacity to act as an efficient opposition in collaborating with a government which is determined to give a good performance.

There have been talks of insults to democracy. Imagine that! I will not linger on that point, I shall merely let the House decide who is showing contempt for democracy. Today is already July 17, and I shall add 1981, because I have the feeling that some people around here have lost all sense of time and of the value of time. Today being July 17, 1981, we ought to be in our constituencies working, as tomorrow is not a holiday. The members opposite are in no hurry to adjourn as many of them are on a holiday all year around. When a government has a majority of only 12 members it stands to reason that they must be in the House everyday, from Monday to Friday. Canadians must understand that. Of course, I admit there are hard working and dedicated people in the opposition, and I can see some right now for whom I have a high respect, but there are also quite a few who are away and that makes