

*Extension of Hours*

kinds, which still have not all been presented to Parliament, in favour of retention of the statutory grain rate. Does the Hon. Member not agree that that means that the Government should accept what our House Leader, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain just proposed a few moments ago, that the subject matter of this Bill be referred to a special committee empowered to travel from place to place and hear witnesses between now and the first of October, November or December, or whatever, so that the Government can then deal with the Bill, having received this information from the grain producers of western Canada and a lot of other people, including the steel workers in Hamilton?

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the number of people who had made representations.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Thirty-seven thousand.

**Mr. Simmons:** If you subtract 37,000 from 25 million you will find that a substantial number have not written in their views on either side of the issue. If one subtracts from the 37,000 the number who have been stirred up by the scare tactics of the New Democratic Party, the number will be substantially less than 37,000.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, to respond to the question whether I read the response in *Hansard* by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), no, I must admit that is one of the few responses in *Hansard* which I have not yet memorized.

**Mr. Blaikie:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) on two points. He mentioned the June 30 adjournment date which is provided for in the new rules. I was wondering whether he would be willing to admit that there is no danger to the June 30 adjournment. The only way that we could sit beyond June 30 is if the Government makes us sit beyond June 30, failing to respect the new rules and failing to strike a compromise between itself and the Opposition on the various proposals we have made with regard to the Bill to change the Crow rate. It is not the Opposition which can make this Parliament sit beyond June 30. It is only the Government which can do that by hypothetically recalling Parliament after June 30.

The Hon. Member commented on the invitation of our House Leader, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans), to the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), the Assistant House Leader of the Conservative Party, to "Come with us. Take the hard way. Oppose the Government on this matter". The Hon. Member commented on the fact that the Hon. Member for Bow River did not respond to that invitation. I feel that the fact that the invitation was not responded to, and the cosy language which the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's used when he was describing the Hon. Member for Bow River, is further evidence of the fact that what we see before us here today is a deal between the Progressive Conservative Opposition and the Liberal Government to get the changes to the Crow rate into

committee and, on the part of the Conservative Party, to get this Crow rate changed because it fully expects it will be the Government come the next election. That may or may not be true. However, that Party operates on the assumption it will be the Government, and it wants this thing out of the way because it responds to the same corporate and economic pressures as the Liberal Party from the CPR and various other large business interests, and it knows that if the Liberals do not get it done before the next election, it will have to do it because it takes orders from the same people.

That is why there is this cosy relationship here, Mr. Speaker, between the Liberal Government and the Progressive Conservative Opposition. The Conservative Party wants this thing out of the way so it will not have to do it itself. It is only the NDP which would stand up to those interests, only the NDP which would be able to bring in policies—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order. Order.

**Mr. Blaikie:** —which would see the Crow rate maintained—

**An Hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order.

**Mr. Kilgour:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. That was a slanderous comment which was made by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie). I would ask him to withdraw it.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** That, in the Chair's opinion, is debate. The time provided for questions and comments has elapsed.

**Mr. Blaikie:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, as ever, the truth hurts.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. The Chair informed the House that the time for questions and comments had elapsed. However, is the House agreeable to allowing the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) to respond to the previous comment?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** It is not agreed. Debate.

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I regard the failure of the House to permit me to respond as a violation of the provision of the question and answer period. How can there be, Mr. Speaker, a question and answer period, if the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) is allowed to filibuster in terms of time on the question and I am not permitted time to answer? It is assumed that I ought to have some brief period to answer the question.

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