

*Supply*

to a couple of private members' bills moved by opposition members from the west who felt this was a reasonable way to address an historical grievance. What it boils down to is that this government is concerned about the extent of western alienation and it has tried to listen and go along with what has been presented as being a reasonable way to try to eliminate one of these historical grievances. After second reading it will go to committee where there will be an opportunity for clause by clause examination, and hon. members opposite can move all the amendments they want. I can assure them that the government will listen to and judge those amendments on their merits with the same reasonableness and responsiveness which I have indicated here tonight.

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, first I want to point out one of the fundamental differences between the two parties of the socialist alliance.

**Mr. Smith:** We are free enterprisers.

**Mr. Huntington:** The parliamentary secretary shouts across the floor that members of the Liberal Party are free enterprisers. Never in the history of the democratic world has a party, going under the label of liberalism, done so much damage to the free enterprise movement or the spirit of free enterprise in the world. The tragedy is that you keep trying to tell them this, but their minds are so locked in they cannot hear you. They cannot hear the people. They cannot even read the polls or the message from the recent election in Saskatchewan with respect to the socialist alliance between them and the NDP.

However, one thing I want to say on behalf of the NDP is that, in my opinion, they have a tremendous respect for the parliamentary democratic system. In that regard I have the utmost respect for them, although I do not always agree with their ideas and their desire to have the state control all the means of production. However, I am prepared to debate that strongly and openly with them in the parliamentary system. On the other hand, the Liberals use the free enterprise label, use the trust that people had in them, to move this country away from a participatory democracy into that of a leadership democracy. That is why I am rather pleased that the NDP have used an opposition day to talk about Bill C-113 and to give warning that it is totally unacceptable to that part of the country I come from, namely, British Columbia. I appreciate the work that the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller) has done on this issue and his warning that if this bill comes forward it will disenfranchise those of us who live in British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon. I have said that I respect him. I put the same kind of importance on this matter as members of the New Democratic Party do. I think it is an important measure because to me the participatory democratic parliamentary system in this country is being threatened. We have moved into a leadership type of democracy, which I think is a very serious move.

● (2120)

I thank the NDP for this opportunity that I have been given to speak on their opposition day motion.

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

**Mr. Huntington:** I will say it again, again and again because hon. members on the opposite side just cannot hear. If I ever heard an arrogant, irresponsible speech from a minister, it was the one made in this House tonight which the only minister elected from western Canada gave. I think he did the Liberal Party right across the land a great deal of harm. I am sure the west will just accept it for the arrogance and ignorance that has been displayed in this House tonight. There is no respect on the other side of the House for democracy. Power is the issue. It is power at any price. It is arrogance that "we will lead, that we will not listen. We do not have to listen to you. We have the power, and that is it."

Why are we in the west excited? It is pretty tough to pick up the phone at 5.30 in the afternoon, with two and a half hours yet to go in the polls, and to learn the results as they are coming in from Atlantic and central Canada. You can defeat a cabinet minister which might be a great personal victory for all the people who were involved in a democratic election, but it is sure a downer when you know the results for the country have been decided two and a half hours before voting is finished in the west.

We heard an awful lot in the constitutional debate on fairness and equity. We heard about treating people equally and that different parts of the country are entitled to fairness. But if we are going to have that fairness, surely the government should withdraw Bill C-113. Bill C-113 gives a different time schedule for each of the time zones across the country. As a nation, Canada has four and half different time zones. Our challenge is to manage that difference. I think the people in each of the different time zones should have the polls open to them through the same hours of the day. The polls open at 9 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. in eastern, central or mountain time. Therefore, they should be opened at 9 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. in the Pacific standard time zone and in the Yukon time zone. I think that is only fair. As you move west, particularly as it affects B.C. and Alberta, the schedule set out in Bill C-113 puts an unequal burden on the employment sector of the country. After all, this whole economy lives on the ability of people to generate wealth and pay taxes. The employers' council in B.C. has stated that an unfair and unequal burden is placed on its members by the polls closing at 5.30 p.m. I accept that. We have heard many suggestions here tonight. We have heard the suggestions put forward by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quandra (Mr. Clarke) in a private member's bill. You will find that my remarks will even be at odds with some of my colleagues from this party who have spoken. But you know, Mr. Speaker, we have not caucussed on this motion nor have we caucussed on the principles of Bill C-113. We are using an opposition day to supply warnings and to get some discussions which might allow us to come up with something that is fair and equitable for each of the time zones across the country.

As a westerner, we have never been able to understand why the polls just do not run through and why they do not keep the