of birds. I recall when one government had a problem with the balsam woolly aphid. It decided to bring in the predator, the shrew. A shrew is a very tiny little animal with a sort of long tail. It is like a tiny mechanical mouse that you sometimes see in a store. The government brought in shrews.

I recall the day that this was announced in the provincial legislature. The premier of the province said: "Well, we got rid of the balsam woolly aphid. The shrews have eaten them up. But now we have a problem with too many shrews". He went on to say that the predator of the shrew is the snake, but if the government brought in snakes, it would never win the next election. That is a problem. The woodlots of eastern Europe where they have bird sanctuaries is a partial solution to this problem of using chemical sprays in our environment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that the hon. member's time has expired. It has been a very wonderful speech.

Questions and comments are now terminated. Debate? It should be the Liberal Party, but I will recognize the NDP if that is what the hon. member would like.

The hon. member for Skeena has the floor. He will be the last speaker who will have a 20-minute speech under Standing Order 74.

The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

Mr. Gauthier: I do not want to take exception to your ruling, Mr. Speaker. I have some notes. I do not want to follow my colleague from Gander—Twillingate. I cannot hope to speak like he does and I do not have the knowledge that he has, but I did wish and hope that I could start my speech before the allotted eight hours are up, which I am told will be around one o'clock. If we could get some understanding of that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member will have 20 minutes plus 10 minutes questions and comments. There are 48 minutes remaining as of the commencement of the hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls, so the hon. member can judge for himself that there will not be that much time left. If he does get

into it, naturally the Chair will allow the 20 minutes or he can get unanimous consent if he likes. I am just bringing this to the attention of the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

The hon. member for Skeena has the floor on debate.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have a somewhat broader ranging opportunity to speak to Bill C-78, and I appreciate my friend giving me the opportunity.

There are a lot of people in this country who want to know more about Bill C-78. It is only through debates such as this that they will get an opportunity. It appears that the government side does not intend to put up the minister because, as the Speaker just pointed out, this is the last 20-minute speech that will have a 10-minute question and answer period with it. The government has ducked the opportunity to bring the minister forward. In the last full day of debate, the government has not put up any speakers. I guess its intention is to not really let its agenda be broadly known in the country.

● (1240)

In our series of hearings in the special committee, which was struck on June 27 but did not have a chair until September 24, we had a few witnesses. We had Mr. Robinson, the head of FEARO, the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Office, and we have had some people from the Department of Justice. Other than that, we have not had a chance to really do what we were intended to do, which was to act as a pre-study but also as a special committee. My understanding was that we would have the opportunity to redraft Bill C-78, taking into account the major concerns that have been expressed from every province and from both territories, and from public interest groups, who want serious, tough-minded workable legislation when it comes to environmental assessment.

It seems that the government agenda is to not allow for the special committee to do its work. It wants to now complete second reading and force this legislation off to a legislative committee where only minor amendments and adjustments can be made. It certainly is the