

-16-

recall, one year to the point at which the government was compelled to adopt closure. Mr. Bennett has told us that brute majority is the way in which all matters have finally to be decided, where the government is deprived of having its own way. If we have refrained from unduly prolonging discussions in Parliament to the point of again compelling closure on like measures, it is but because we have realized that this method would be resorted to in the end, and that the one prolonged struggle had helped to reveal to the public what could be expected from the present administration where it was determined to have its own way with respect to particular measures.

This withdrawal of parliamentary control or subversion of Parliamentary rights was carried to its greatest extreme by the government in connection with the so-called Ottawa Agreements. Not only were tariffs made by the executive in secret session without any authorization from Parliament, but Parliament was forced, under the procedure adopted by the government, to approve the agreements themselves before even the schedules setting forth the rates imposed, or, in other words, the additional taxation to be imposed, had been discussed in committee of the whole house. That method was unconstitutional and wrong, but it was the one employed by the government to compel acceptance of the Ottawa Agreements.

Worse still was the fact that not only was the taxation for a single year imposed in that manner, but the government sought