

Procedure and Organization

An hon. Member: Why don't you burn the books?

Mr. Hogarth: We have had endless repetition. We have seen the same points endlessly repeated.

An hon. Member: Burn the books.

Mr. Hogarth: Speaker after speaker in the same debate has repeated the same point.

Mr. Bell: Stick around a little while and you will learn.

Mr. Hogarth: I believe we are dedicated to the simple proposition that this government must produce policies for the people of Canada—

Mr. Stanfield: Then why not produce them?

Mr. Hogarth: —because we must solve the contemporary problems facing the people of Canada today.

Mr. Monteith: Then it is time the government performed some single act which would support that claim.

Mr. Hogarth: If we want to carry out our aims, we must have a more effective parliament.

Mr. Stanfield: Nonsense.

Mr. Hogarth: To do all this, parliament must become more reputable in the eyes of the people of Canada. If we are to perform this work we must reform the rules under which our legislation is to go through parliament.

Mr. Stanfield: Really, this is nonsense.

Mr. Hogarth: We are also dedicated to the simple proposition that in a democracy the rule of the majority of members of the House of Commons must prevail.

Mr. McGrath: Might is right.

Mr. Hogarth: It does not matter to which political party you belong; the will of the majority of members must prevail. That is provided for under section 45 of the British North America Act which governs the manner in which substantive legislation shall proceed through the house.

In the report of the committee and in this debate we have reached an impasse. This is an obvious impasse, brought on perhaps because we have too many political parties in this country.

[Mr. Hogarth.]

Mr. McGrath: The government is prepared to have only one political party in this country. That is where it is heading.

Mr. Hogarth: Perhaps there are other reasons for the impasse. I do not attach blame. Nevertheless, the impasse is here to be seen. It seems to me that in the ensuing debate, which some members of the opposition have referred to as a senseless debate, the majority in this house has said that its will must prevail. Unless the majority will prevail the work of this house cannot be carried out. We cannot do something if all 260 odd members insist on talking about something. In the early hours of tomorrow morning, the majority will say that it must have the right to carry out a program. When I say majority, I do not necessarily mean one political party. It is the majority of the members of this house which will do it.

• (10:30 p.m.)

Mr. Stanfield: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Hogarth: No, not right now.

If we abuse this power under Rule 75B and 75C, if we have abused the power under Standing Order 33, we shall pay for it. We will be slaughtered at the polls in the next election.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hogarth: As the hon. member for Wellington-Grey (Mr. Howe) stated a few moments ago, many of us in the Liberal Party acknowledge the mistakes of the fifties. On June 10, 1957 we got it in the neck because we abused the power with respect to closure. We know what can happen. We are conscious of this fact. Our house leader will continuously be kept conscious of this fact by the backbenchers on this side of the house.

I am very interested in some of the remarks made by some of the hon. members opposite, particularly those by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). The remarks of the hon. member were adopted by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan). The remarks I am referring to are recorded at page 11474 of *Hansard*:

The result of this decision, if it is carried through, is as clear as can be. Proceedings during the next session of parliament will not be of the kind that they have been during this session. There will be confrontation and frustration. There will be work to rule, no more participating democracy. I appeal to the government even at this late hour to reconsider its position—