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legislative form as a result of this process so proudly proclaimed but so arrogantly denied by the government. My experience, both here in the House and in my previous career, tells me that the very opposite course is followed. Cabinet decides the policy to be followed. The gesture of consultation is made in one form or another.

We have heard a lot about Burke. I think there is another part of Burke we sometimes forget. A little further in that statement of his he says:

But government and legislation are matters of reason and judgment, and not of inclination; and, what sort of reason is that in which the determination precedes the discussion; . . .

That is this government's attitude.

. . . in which one set of men deliberate . . .

That is us.

. . . and another decide;

**Mr. Blais:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, I merely wish to invite the hon. member, if he wants to discuss the legislative process, to take part in the debate tomorrow, at which time part of the legislative process will be discussed. Today, we are dealing with television and Bill C-58.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Indeed, I was about the call the hon. member to order for the second time but I was waiting to see if he would tie in his remarks with the motions before the House.

[English]

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Madam Speaker, the connection between the comments I have just made I think should be obvious to all in this House. I have said that many letters have been received. I have not given the exact number but I suggest all of us have received innumerable letters urging that this legislation be not passed. Therefore I call for a free vote so that all members in this House may respond in the manner in which Burke urged we respond to the representations made to us by our constituents.

**An hon. Member:** It won't work because they have no conscience.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** I suppose that is the situation. I am sure that if we all went through our correspondence and archives and counted the number of letters we have received, certainly from British Columbia, in opposition to this particular legislation, we would find that the number is considerable. I include members from the opposite side, some of whom have had the courage to stand up and defy the party whip. We should all be able to stand up and defy the whip when we are here to represent the views of our constituents.

This is the connection I am making. I am using this particular material simply as an example of the sort of legislative process that would be meaningful to the Canadian people who sent us here, because I am satisfied the Canadian people are becoming more and more disillusioned with parliament. They have asked us to come here, look at the problems which concern them, and try to find solutions. We are not doing this because of the over-wean-

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

ing confidence of a government which refuses to listen to what the populace is saying.

We have dealt with the *Reader's Digest*. We found there was a shift in parliament. I do not think it was in response to any appeal from the public. I do not remember any 80 per cent notion being brought to my attention. There was merely a desire to continue to have *Reader's Digest*. It is the decision of this particular government that it knows better than anyone else, and that the people do not matter. I insist that the last election which put the government into power offered no five-year mandate to the majority party to force its will on the public.

The public will can express itself differently on different issues at different times. Let that be reflected by members as they respond to what they hear from their ridings. They should vote on issues that are of concern to their ridings and if they should be wrong more often than right, then let them live by the consequences of that when they face the electorate the next time around. They should be good parliamentarians and should not be a bunch of sheep or seals. If the government wants to be truly innovative it could begin with this bill and allow a free vote and abide by the consequences. I should like to see a start made in this direction now.

With regard to the bill itself and the amendments and what they provide, the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen) has introduced a number of amendments which reflect truly the correspondence he and I have been receiving from the listeners and watchers in southern British Columbia asking that they be given ready access to programs of their choice. I support these amendments.

The UHF attachments that would be required to capture these transmissions may, in the course of time, become unnecessary. New developments may occur in television technology which would permit a wider spectrum of listening capability, but likely there is an attachment which is required, and which is almost more expensive than the sets themselves. I think we should respond to the demands our electors make upon us. The suggestion I have made is that here is a starting point in terms of a free vote. It cannot be carried through to all legislation obviously, it cannot be carried to the budget, it cannot be carried to the speech from the Throne. There are a number of matters that the government should put forward on which it should say, "We stand or fall on this." If it can get the whips on and keep them on, fine, but let the members stand up, speak for their constituents, and live by the consequences.

● (1700)

**Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River):** Madam Speaker, it was once said in this country by a person uncertain of his stature that the government has no business in the bedrooms of the nation. One would be amazed to learn now that the same government which made that statement now feels it can tinker with the minds of the citizens.

To make an analysis of what is happening with the bill which might be amended, one might simply say that the bill as it now stands without amendment is heading in the opposite direction to the one it should be taking. Certainly one of the things we no longer hear about is people getting scurvy when travelling across the ocean from the old world