

Judges Act

impossible for you, on the basis of the reports we have received, to carry out your duties on the bench and you have to resign. I do not know how we could introduce such legislation, but I think that we will have to consider, some day, bringing about a change in the way the judges can be removed from office, so that the purposes of justice may be attained.

At the present time, judges can be retired at 75 when companies put their officers or their employees on retirement at 65. I do not suggest that somebody who is 65 years old and over is not clear-headed, is unable to judge and occupy a judge's position but I say that we should consider retiring our judges at 70.

I think that the Minister of Justice should also consider appointing younger people as judges. In the past, we appointed judges when they reached the age of 50, 55 and over, but today the minister should feel free to appoint people in their forties who have all their ability and their health to render the services they will be called upon to perform.

Of course, we agree to the passing of this legislation but, at the same time, we should like the minister to take into consideration the representations which we made concerning the appointment of judges, the administration of the tribunals jointly with the provinces. When federal-provincial conferences are called, he might discuss these matters with the attorneys general because I think that the minister, like everyone else in this house, wants justice to be dispensed in the interest of the ordinary people so as to better serve our society.

[*English*]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, it is with some reluctance that one enters a debate filled with speeches by gentlemen who have the classification "learned" attached to them. I hope I may be able, in ordinary layman's language, to express some views which are understood. Whenever I see a bill of this nature involving justice and appointments by the crown—by the minister or by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)—I cannot help but be reminded of the campaign slogan of the Prime Minister: "Come, work with me".

● (4:00 p.m.)

We want to tell the government and the minister that, regardless of all that we know, the Canadian people love Pierre, they trust him and they know he is going to do the right thing in terms of such appointments. We

know about the just society, about the desire for the new look and about the new politics of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice. The era is fast approaching when adherence to a political faith will not be the criterion for appointments to boards and commissions, to the bench, to the Senate and to all of the other places which by tradition have been a haven for those who have been faithful to the party in office. We know this is not going to exist any more.

In that regard I was very pleased to hear the Minister of Justice say that the prime consideration in the appointment of members to the bench will be their competence and abilities. Of course, other ministers before him have said the same thing. Saying it does not mean it is going to be true, but we trust that Pierre and his cohorts will do the right thing and will bring about the new politics.

We hope that the practice of past governments of appointing to boards and commissions only people of their own political stripe will come to an end. We believe, like the government does, in the new era of politics. But we know that there are some Liberals who do not believe in it and do not want to put it into practice. One of them, for instance, is John Matheson who was parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister. He does not believe in the just society. He believes that there should be political appointments, and that is why he accepted one not too long ago as a county court judge. However, Mr. Matheson is a rare individual.

Paul Tardif is another rare individual in the Liberal party. I gather that Paul Tardif did not run again as a candidate in the area now represented by the Minister of Justice and that he is one of those rare individuals who believe in political appointments. That is why he accepted an appointment as a judge of the citizenship court. This is not a political appointment but one based purely on competence. Of course, with all respect to Paul Tardif, during the time he was here he did not prove his competence to any marked degree.

There is also James Byrne, the former member for Kootenay East, who did not run again. He does not believe in the just society but he does believe in political appointments. He does not believe in the new politics because he accepted a \$19,000 a year membership on the immigration appeal board. I know the minister does not like to hear this but I could go down the list and recite the names of many others like Roger Teillet, Jacques