

Business of the House

Mr. Baldwin: It is closure.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The government House leader tried to get an allocation of time under rule 75A by agreement among all parties in the House. He was unable to get any agreement whatsoever for any period of time. The government House leader then proceeded under rule 75B hoping that he could get what the rule calls a qualified agreement to allot time, but he was not even able to get from the opposition a qualified agreement to allot time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: It is still closure.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The government House leader, as contemplated under this time allotment rule, and as he was entitled to do, then moved under rule 75C, which is the procedure whereby if—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I must call for order. There is absolutely no possibility for the Chair to hear anything that is being said either by the hon. member who has the floor—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that they should allow the Speaker to speak even if they will not allow the member who has the floor to speak. I would bring to the attention of hon. members that if we are going to have a debate we should give an opportunity to the member who is recognized to make his speech. This would be a rather dull place if there were absolute silence all the time; it is good for debate that hon. members should have the chance to express their views in one way or another. But, as I say, the hon. member who has the floor should be given a chance to be heard.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having failed to persuade the opposition House leaders to agree to an allotment of time under rule 75A, and having again tried to get a qualified agreement under rule 75B, the government House leader was entitled under the same set of rules to move for an allotment of time under 75C.

The proposition is a simple one, Mr. Speaker. After full and fair debate Parliament must be given the opportunity, must take the responsibility, of reaching a decision on this bill so that Members of Parliament can be accountable to the Canadian people for the bill. That is the purpose of this motion.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I hope my time will not be reduced by the length of the unseemly applause that I was given as I rose to speak. I was very much impressed by the remarks of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: He said that there was no reason to object to what is being done. He contended that the vast mix-up of taxation laws under this bill that affect other fields of endeavour has been thoroughly digested. In his opinion there was no reason for further discussion of them. My record shows that of the 707 pages in the bill

only 190 have been discussed. I suggest that when the minister speaks of digestion he could not have had the government in mind. In the past couple of weeks there have been 133 amendments moved, which indicates that the government found that its digestive apparatus was not working very well. It regurgitated what it had produced and which it thought it had well digested.

Hon. gentlemen opposite who spoke about democracy and what it means gave an amazing performance. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) knows what democracy means.

• (3:10 p.m.)

Mr. Trudeau: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: He is the only one who applauds it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: He knows what democracy is because he said on one occasion that his favourite politician was a gentleman from Florence—Machiavelli. Machiavelli was noted for his—

Mr. Trudeau: He is not from Florence.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not want to miss these words of wisdom.

Mr. Trudeau: It is "Mac". It is a Scottish name.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Machiavelli was known for his craftiness. He was known for his ability to pretend. He was known because he was often misinterpreted, frequently misinformed, but never mistaken. I do not know how far one is supposed to carry this analogy. Mr. Speaker, they are not even through with the amendments. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) said in effect, "We have a few more".

Mr. Stanfield: They are just starting.

Mr. Diefenbaker: They had a lot of difficulty digesting what taxes they were going to apply to co-operatives and credit unions across Canada. Then they back down.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: You said you were going to stand. You still have more than 140 amendments that have not been considered. In addition there are some further amendments being brought forward.

An hon. Member: Straighten him out, Bob.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The government are in the position of having a mathematical majority and, therefore, regardless of whether Parliament is raped or not, intends to cut off discussion. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) mentioned 75c. That thing was brought in by closure.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I sat on this side of the House in 1956. The Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) laughs. At that time he was engaged in other activities of a leftist nature.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!