

the system. When he took office in 1968 the Prime Minister warned his colleagues that any of them who publicly disagreed with a cabinet decision or revealed a cabinet secret would be dismissed immediately. But in the two recent extraordinary instances of public disagreement the Prime Minister did nothing to discipline, much less dismiss, the offenders.

In statements made outside the House of Commons, the Postmaster General criticized the government's revision of the unemployment insurance scheme, while the Conservative opposition supported the obvious need to curb its abuses. Quarrelling openly in the House of Commons, the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) attacked the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) for bungling the purchase of Orion aircraft; the national defence minister replied, quite rightly, that the collapse of the Lockheed deal was the shared responsibility of all ministers. Finally, the supply and services minister, defying a basic rule of the system, named and blamed a defenceless civil servant.

But the malaise in Ottawa is not sudden, temporary or unexpected. The disorder of the government did not begin with the outbursts of those ministers. It began with the resignation of John Turner as minister of finance last fall, followed by the conviction of the then minister of consumer and corporate affairs for contempt of court, and his resignation as minister of consumer and corporate affairs. This was then followed by the proffered resignation of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Drury) in the affair of the Quebec judges; but the Prime Minister refused to accept the resignation. Even this regrettable episode did not prevent the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) from approaching the National Parole Board to inquire about the suspended driver's licence of the Minister of the Environment who had been convicted of leaving the scene of an automobile accident.

The behaviour of the Trudeau cabinet is disturbing and unacceptable, because it weakens the whole governing system at a time when strength is most required.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** What about the hon. member's leader? He is seldom here.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Oh, boy, here we go again with the government Whip. A recent article in the *Globe and Mail* says that:

... Liberal Joseph Guay (St. Boniface) was feted for his leather-lunged performances in the Commons and described as the 'noisiest, most abrasive' MP on the Liberal benches.

Many of us hear the interjections of the government Whip. They are not constructive. If he would take lessons from the opposition whip, he would be far more constructive.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I suggest that my interjections make a lot of sense compared with the nonsense we hear coming from the other side of the House much of the time.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Don't be so modest, Joe.

### *Ministerial Responsibility*

**Mr. McKenzie:** The article went on to say:

(It's said by some of the MPs in attendance that the comments were too close to the bone—Joe was not amused.)

Apparently I got to Joe's bone again tonight.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** You don't know what you are talking about, unless you read. Keep reading.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Clearly, the Prime Minister cannot allow such a spectacle of confusion to last much longer.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Keep reading.

**Mr. McKenzie:** He indicated months ago that the cabinet would be shuffled after the current parliamentary session; but he will need more than another game of musical chairs if his credibility as the nation's leader is to be re-established. I suggest that Canadians have the right to expect something better than a cabinet in public disarray, a governing system unable to govern effectively until it is repaired, or to make any policy work.

Let me now deal with the Lockheed Orion fiasco which has cast a harsh light on the competence of two members of the Trudeau government, the Minister of Supply and Services and the Minister of National Defence.

By his shabby attempts at blame shifting, the Minister of Supply and Services has revealed that he also lacks the sense of responsibility to be a cabinet minister. Because of the financial and political troubles that had overtaken the Lockheed company, both ministers should have been especially watchful and prudent in making the deal for 18 long-range patrol aircraft at a cost of more than \$1 billion. It was to be expected that a company in that position, urgently needing the contract, would put the most optimistic face on its ability to carry through.

The defence minister's chief fault was that, in emulating Lockheed's professed or real optimism, he took on trust its verbal assurance last November that it could get interim financing. I can recall, on November 27, the defence minister announcing that the big purchase would be going through and that two factories in Winnipeg would start making parts immediately for the Lockheed Orion. I questioned the minister further in the defence committee on December 1 and he assured me again that the deal was going through. He had no business making such statements.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** And what happened with regard to aircraft when the Conservatives had a majority?

**An hon. Member:** Water your mushrooms, Joe.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Because of the financial and political troubles that had overtaken the Lockheed company, both ministers should have been especially watchful and prudent in making the deal for 18 long-range patrol aircraft at a cost of more than \$1 billion. It was to be expected that a company in that position, urgently needing the contract, would put the most optimistic face on its ability to carry through. The defence minister's chief fault was that, in emulating Lockheed's professed or real optimism, he took on trust its verbal assurance last November that it could get interim financing. It was even more precisely the supply and services minister's responsibility to nail down