

Procedure and Organization

the government as though they had not heard or read their own words.

This is what the government wants. They want to continue confusing the country as they have in the past. Again, I do not think this will work for them. I do not think anyone is going to be fooled by the kind of measures that they are introducing. In my opinion, we have given a great deal. The opposition has made tremendous concessions to the government because it recognized there had to be changes in procedure. I sincerely ask the government to consider whether or not they need rule 75c because I do not think they need it. In the long run it will prove to be their downfall, just as closure proved their downfall in 1956. They will pretend they are getting things done when, in fact, they will have their eyes closed to public opinion about certain issues.

In some ways we are really helping you. The Opposition is going to survive regardless of what you do, and so will parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to remind the hon. member that he should address the Chair at all times, although he may not do so now because his time has expired.

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate on the motion before the house I should like, first of all, to associate myself with other hon. members on this side of the house who have stressed the obvious need for reform, indeed, our party's willingness to support the adoption of many of the measures that would achieve that end. Since the present government took office, they have introduced a new principle into the rules of parliament, that is one of arrogance. They are obviously acting contrary to the age old tradition which has been the foundation of our freedom, namely that parliament must control its own procedure.

The government is asking the opposition to limit its power to oppose. It is asking members of parliament to gag parliament, and I contend that if this motion is allowed to pass, members of this parliament and indeed other parliaments, will be like driven cattle. Parliament will be the tomb and not the defender of Canadian freedom. Hon. members opposite, especially the new members, must know in their own hearts that it is not parliament that is ruining the reputation of this government and of the Liberal party. They must know perfectly well what has happened to their so-called just society and how it is held in

contempt by so many Canadians. What is happening to the government and to the Liberal party has nothing to do with the length of debate in parliament or with the imagined abuses which rule 75c is supposed to correct.

The troubles in which the government finds itself all began just after the election. Canadians were affected beyond words by the indescribable mass slaughter and starvation of women and children in Biafra. They were disturbed when they saw almost daily on television pictures of children who were actually starving. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of Canada, with his usual elegance, grace and wit, asked, "Where is Biafra?" Many weeks later, with the same sense of history and perspective, balance and justice, which are so much admired, the Prime Minister compared the situation of those women and children to that of the Nazis at Stalingrad. I would strongly suggest to the house leader, to the Prime Minister and to the government that before they try to ram through rule 75c which would have the effect of shutting up parliament, he should consider the advisability of putting a rein on his own tongue. Is there any wonder that a great many people in this country are disillusioned with the so-called just society?

• (3:20 p.m.)

Some time ago the Prime Minister made a cruel statement which related to a large part of our population. He said, "Why should I sell your wheat?" He said this to those people on the prairies who are gravely concerned about the tight financial squeeze in which they find themselves. This statement by the Prime Minister was not very consoling. I contend that rule 75c is not going to stop that sort of statement in this house. Apparently that statement was a calculated insult. There has been no statement about the problems faced by the oil industry in Canada. The Prime Minister also made a statement to the effect that certain civil servants who are not bilingual will be demoted to running elevators. These are examples of the thoughtless and callous statements the Prime Minister has made in recent weeks.

As a result of such statements the Liberal party and this government have reached a low ebb in popularity. It is obvious they want to ram through rule 75c to enable them to gag the opposition, then they will bring forth legislation which is deserving of debate. I contend this is why they are bringing in 75c. The Prime Minister's statements in recent