

report. Before anyone becomes too upset by the term "radical", I am using it in the best sense of the word. That is to say that this report goes to the root of the problem, as the word "root" is the origin of the word "radical". What is the root of the problem? It is that there is a serious imbalance between the work that Members of Parliament are supposed to do with the authority that they have and the power and authority of the Cabinet or the executive branch of Government. We see evidence of this all the time in Parliament. We have what can only be described as periodic impasses in the work of Parliament because the executive attempts to use its power and Members of Parliament take recourse in all that is available to them, the provisions of the Standing Orders.

● (1510)

Obviously something is terribly wrong. Our main interest ought to be serving the people of Canada. Our main goal ought not to be to perpetuate ourselves in power or to further a political Party although I know that that is always part of it but it ought to be to make this country better and stronger and to make sure that citizens are well served. We spend 175 days per year in this place and what is our productivity? To what extent does that which we produce benefit citizens and to what extent does it merely cause them more grief, agony and trouble?

I say that we have the recipe. The question now is are we going to bake the cake. When the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) spoke that evening we devoted to the entire question of parliamentary reform, I think he put it very succinctly by saying that this is not simply a matter of changing Standing Orders, but what is really required on behalf of all of us is a different attitude and a different approach to the reason we are here and what we are supposed to do. The problem is as much or more attitudinal than it is simply with the Standing Orders or any specific rules that govern our lives in this place.

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, I think the level of the remarks made by the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) have done him credit. He has discussed the subject matter which is before us in a fashion which I think is constructive. I wish I could say the same of some of the other remarks I have heard in this House from his Party confrères but unfortunately I cannot.

Today, we in the House are involved in a process which perhaps derived from an example set in years gone by and I must say that opposition Members have graduated from that training *summa cum laude*. They certainly have shown what can be done, whether it be credible or otherwise.

I do wish to say to the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior that some of the tactics which have been used in the House have certainly caused grief, agony and trouble. There are 450 people who are improperly out of work in my constituency today and some are not yet eligible for unemployment insurance benefits in the Christmas season. I have heard a great deal about the Christian spirit which exists in the House at this time of the year but it certainly has been lacking in the

### Committee Reports

last three months. Repeating as nearly as I can the words of the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior, we are going to cause more trouble for Canadians than we correct by some of the work we do in the House and by the pursuit of the perpetuity of power. Certainly that is what we have seen in this process.

I am thoroughly in support of the concept that this committee should indeed have an opportunity to express itself and that it should indeed consider the regulations. However, with all that holier than thou atmosphere which we have perceived as supposedly being created by this opposition-generated discussion of the subject matter, I would like to recall to you, Mr. Speaker, that I once sat on this committee and only once. It was during a discussion of a totally illegal expenditure which was, 18 months after the fact, supposedly legalized by a regulation passed by the then Government. I must say that the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) was probably a member of the Cabinet at the time that regulation which in fact spent money illegally was passed.

When an effort was made by myself and other members of that committee to have some consideration in the House of that particular report, we were thwarted. As a matter of fact, when the report was tabled in the House, it for some reason or other barely mentioned the subject matter of a totally illegal regulation. When it was pursued in the House privately and publicly, no redress could be obtained. I say to all members of the Opposition that it is a case of the pot calling the kettle black when members of the Opposition call for information and correction of items which may have been improperly addressed through regulation.

I suppose I feel very strongly on this subject matter. I do not believe that I can find words within the vocabulary acceptable to the House to express myself. May I simply say that as I listened to the remarks made here by those who would now want to be perceived as being holier than thou, I certainly found it to be a disgusting performance. Proclaiming the sanctity of what has happened before without giving much consideration to the damage, grief and trouble which they may cause people in the pursuit of selfish political reasons, they are certainly not admirable.

If there is one thing which this debate has emphasized more than another, it is that we should not try to govern by regulation but we should instead try to govern by legislation. This House should be able to work in such a fashion that urgent legislation could indeed be passed. If at the time these regulations were passed it had been the choice of the Government of that day to introduce a Bill into the House to accomplish what these regulations were supposed to accomplish, I do not believe that it would have taken 15 minutes to consider that piece of legislation in all its phases within the House. We would have had the unquestionable support of the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia). Perhaps I am making an assumption which I should not make, but I believe that the Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett) would have supported it, knowing her environmental concerns. The Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr.