

**Mr. Mackasey:** There has been a lot of talk about parliament. Parliament is not only the government, the members of the majority. It is everyone in this House of Commons. The opposition in this motion suggests that this is a poor parliament. They must realize that they, more than any other single force in the last two years, have been the reason for what they call a poor parliament.

One only has to look at the treatment of the Anti-Inflation Board by the opposition. One day out on the hustings, within the first two months, they criticized the Liberals for stealing their election platform. After we allegedly stole it, they criticized us day in and day out because we put it in place and it happens to be functioning. It is bringing down inflation in this country, as we said it would. What kind of co-operation did we get from the opposition? When they thought they were going to get elected on it, it was their legislation. Now they want to disown it because they think it is unpopular. Well, it is not unpopular because this government is providing the leadership that the people of Canada want.

We have a fine Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), a leader who is in the House of Commons every possible day despite his responsibility as leader of the government, a leader who does not shirk his responsibility.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** He gets up and answers questions. Whether the answer is popular or unpopular, you have to say one thing; he provides what the Canadian people want at this crucial time in our history, leadership.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** When the Prime Minister says that controls and restraints will stay on until inflation is at a controllable level, he means it.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a partisan mood today. But since this debate began a couple of hours ago, the official opposition have been portraying themselves as the friends of the public servants. However, after a union exercises its legal right to go on strike, the opposition is the first party to demand that that right be taken away from them. Every time some group goes on strike, the official opposition demands that that right be taken away from the public servants of Canada because it might upset or inconvenience a few people. They regard everything as a national emergency. If you were to poll the opposition tonight, they would say that if they had the opportunity, they would take away from the public servants of this country not only the right to strike but even the right to organize without the right to strike. That has been their position for the past 25 years.

I have in my little department 52,000 public servants. I have been a minister for 8 years. I have had one single case of discrimination brought forward to me as a minister. I came to the conclusion that the public servant had a case, ruled accordingly, and that person received the monetary compensation to which I thought he was entitled. We in this government understand that.

I might sometimes get a little angry and say that we have too many ex-public servants in cabinet. I often state that in good humour.

### *Ministerial Responsibility*

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** Look at the reaction. I did that on purpose. I said that public servants did not have a chance to run for office and be cabinet ministers. Did you hear the applause? Without realizing it, the members opposite walked into the trap. What they said by their applause, and it will be on the record, is that public servants should not have the right to present themselves as candidates and, least of all, should not have the right to be members of the cabinet.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mackasey:** Why were you applauding? The opposition says they should not have the right to be candidates, they should not have the right to be cabinet ministers, they should not have the right to organize, and must not have the right to go on strike. What do they stand for? It is obvious, and I will tell you in a moment what they stand for.

● (1750)

**Mr. Ellis:** May I ask the minister whether now, or some time before he finishes his discourse, he will accept a question?

**Mr. Mackasey:** Right now.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you. I ask him whether he is prepared, because of his great benevolence toward all civil servants, to prevail upon the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) to allow members of parliament to knock on the doors of members of the Armed Forces to campaign for election, something they cannot do now?

**An hon. Member:** Sure, they can.

**Mr. Mackasey:** I have to consider the hon. gentleman to be a unique Conservative, because once again he is going against the party line. He is so extreme in his left wing tendencies that he does not wish to consider the fact the army must be in a unique position because of the discipline needed and because of its special position in a democracy. When people join the army there are certain disciplines they must accept, as is the case in certain police forces, including the RCMP. These restraints are supposed to be compensated for in other ways, and this is, in fact, the case. Incidentally, the Canadian army never had a better friend than it has in the person of the present Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson).

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** When the changes in the Public Service Relations Act come before cabinet I undertake to bring forward the hon. member's representation with respect to members of the army in the hope that by then he will have succeeded in convincing his caucus that this is the official position of the Conservative party.

The motion before us, brought forward so late in the session, is really indicative of the barrenness of the thinking in the party opposite. It is two motions rolled into one, of course, and as I indicated I suspect from the trend of the debate so far that the opposition, in its sudden concern for