

Government Organization Act, 1970

Churchill. Apparently as a boy his mother denied him the right to enter a side show at a circus which was advertised as having therein a person with a jellyfish backbone. Finally, Churchill said: "All through the intervening years I felt very badly about the way in which my mother interfered with me seeing that boneless wonder and now what do I see today? I see the Prime Minister of my country occupying the position of that individual in the sideshow". As a result of what happened this afternoon the hon. member, who has had a lot of difficulty climbing the greasy pole of the chief whip, finds himself in a disagreeable position to say the least, the discomfiture of which I can only hope will not result in the decomposition of his chief whipship.

He has now apparently had an assurance that he will not be interfered with, because there is a smile on his face which was not there a few minutes ago as he talked with the House Leader of the Liberal party. I see he also had the assistance and advice of the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Faulkner). I did not intend to bring him into this but he has propelled himself forward; and having been Deputy Speaker he is able to speak to the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis) with authority.

● (3:30 p.m.)

I support the setting up of a ministry of environment. I go further than that and say that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) is a minister who has shown a regard for Parliament in that he answers questions concerning his department without evasion. He has a few colleagues who have a similar regard for the House; there is the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner), the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson), the Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans), the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing), and one or two others. Those ministers understand Parliament, as does the Government Leader of the House. These men are examples from day to day of the manner in which questions should be answered in the House. There are others, who represent the majority, who regard this place as a forum in which they can exercise their histrionic capacities for evasion, and they do so regularly.

I support that part of the bill which has to do with the subject of environmental control, although in point of fact what is revealed in the bill is really meaningless. I cannot bifurcate my vote and will not, under any circumstance, be bamboozled into voting in favour of this bill because I want action taken on pollution thereby giving approval of actions which will pollute Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This resolution was in the name of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the bill was introduced by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury), neither of whom are here now. What are they doing?

An hon. Member: Playing with orang-outangs.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: While we cannot hear them, we can very easily imagine.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): They are getting their stories straight.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is a sad picture. This afternoon we witnessed an example of what has been stated over and over again by Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, the deception of Parliament by members of this government.

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) asked a question this afternoon in connection with the \$2 million Francophone expenditure program or plan. We have been asking about that regularly in recent days, trying to find out the origination of this and the circumstances connected therewith. The President of the Treasury Board said he did not know anything about it. As I recall it, although not having reviewed *Hansard* in respect of questions asked during the last week he said that the situation was that such a measure was unknown to him, and, it was apparently unknown to other ministers because they supported him by their applause.

As I recall, the President of the Treasury Board said there was no program or plan and that the ephemeral, non-existent program had not been before Cabinet. Profumo was not required to leave the House of Commons in 1963 because of his extramural activities; he went out because he deceived Parliament. The President of the Treasury Board said he did not know anything about this plan. The Prime Minister today said it was passed by the Cabinet in November. Where was the President of the Treasury Board? I should like him to be present at this time. He is absent and I feel sure he is not receiving the warm reception the orang-outangs got in Borneo.

This situation has to be cleared up. There has been a deception of Parliament. I have watched the members of the Cabinet because I like to look at the beauty and pulchritude that is there. I watched them as he contended that he knew nothing of such a program and one and all of those who were present showed a reaction in support of what was said by the President of the Treasury Board; that is, he knew nothing about it and it had not been before the Cabinet. To what degradation has this Parliament been reduced. Hidden was the order or the declaration. Even their chief party whip was not enlightened and he has been saying ever since the matter came up in the House that all was well as there was no such plan. I should like to hear him make his alibi tomorrow.

An hon. Member: Will you come and listen?

Mr. Diefenbaker: You cannot laugh it off because I heard him say on television, speaking as the chief Whip for the Liberal party, there is nothing to this matter. When a man with that authority behind him speaks, one must understand even the gods must be silent.