

of the Iron Ore Company of Canada. He really has only himself to blame. Let no one in this chamber tonight, let no one in this country for one fleeting moment, think there is any lack of compassion in my heart for the right hon. gentleman from Yellowhead. I am overwhelmed with compassion for him. My heart overflows with abject, unadulterated pity for him. A person in his present situation deserves the pity of an entire nation. And, indeed, he is getting it.

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

**Mr. Simmons:** To demonstrate the utter unselfishness of my compassion and to permit others in this House and across this compassionate land to rally to his side in a tangible way, I am tonight announcing a new humanitarian endeavour, a new fund-raising drive to be known, for the sake of brevity, as the FTSTHOTHMFYATIHFATLOHMLO. Or, for the few of you who did not follow my shorthand, the Fund to Save the Hide of the Honourable Member for Yellowhead and to Instal Him forever as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. You see, Mr. Speaker, we on this side need him. We need him because he makes our job—

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think we have hit the bottom of degradation in this House. The speaker, the member from I-know-not-where, has diverted from a topic of great national importance—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member is not making a point of order. The parliamentary secretary—

If the hon. member is making a point of order would he please get to the point?

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** That is what I am getting at. The hon. member has—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair has been listening with as much attention as possible to the debate and has to concede that there is about equal relevance on both sides on certain matters. The parliamentary secretary has the floor.

**Mr. Simmons:** I do apologize to the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) for coming slowly to the point. But I was really doing it for his own benefit. I wanted him to understand what I was saying. I wanted him to know how much we in this chamber need the Leader of the Opposition. He may have different views, he may not be on the leader's side in February, but that is not a matter he should discuss in this chamber. He should not wash his linen in public, I say to him. Mr. Speaker, we need the right hon. gentleman here, we want him here. We in this party hope he will always be leader of the opposition. It is our constant fear that the Tory party might smarten up and promote him laterally.

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

**Mr. Simmons:** That is the best the Leader of the Opposition can do with a serious document—as the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich said—to pick and falsify and misrepresent

to the public of Canada and go out and say: Look, see what they are doing, the vilest act of all. And what was that vile act? To lift from our Standing Orders, word for word, dot for dot, without a change of an "i" or a "t". We lift it, put it into the document before us and somehow, Mr. Speaker, that is a crime for which we have to be smeared across the country tonight on a national radio show by the irresponsible Leader of the Opposition. If you think that is irrelevant, then I say to the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich that everything the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday is also irrelevant. It needs to be answered, this vile smear job, this misrepresentation of what has the makings of a noble document. If the people in this House would only get off their pedestals, get into committee, take this as a working paper and then come back with something we can vote on in this chamber—

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

**An hon. Member:** Right on!

**Mr. Simmons:** In a simpler age, when Sir John A. Macdonald, that great Canadian, and Sir George Étienne Cartier, another great Canadian, framed our constitution, the rights and liberties of the citizens were held to be an implicit part of our parliamentary democracy. But experience has shown that what is only implicit can be endangered by lack of recognition. So John Diefenbaker, another great Canadian, secured the passage of a bill of rights. And when he spoke to that bill he said: "As far as a constitutional amendment is concerned it is impossible of attainment at this time."

The reason for that, of course, was that it was blocked by the provincial governments. We are now seeking in this great Liberal party to conclude what the Tories began—Macdonald and Diefenbaker and the rest of them.

● (2200)

Those of us on the government benches are puzzled, therefore, by the present aberration manifested in the Leader of the Opposition, the present aberration from the unctious and honourable tradition of the Canadian Tory party. Is he really speaking for his caucus, or are the rumors true? Has the caucus smartened up and taken Bill Davis' sage advice on the subject? We on this side of the House have a profound respect for the great tradition—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. In accordance with Standing Order 40—

**Mr. Roche:** Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Points of order are not entertained at the moment of adjournment.

**Mr. Roche:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.