

country who have sent us here to decide what is going to be done and what we are going to do about the immediate and pressing problems of this country, not to play the kind of games that have been evident here in the last two or three days and which, I suspect, will go on for some time to come.

Mr. Graffey: I had a better professor in my freshman year.

Mr. Jamieson: The hon. member said he had a better professor in his freshman year. Thank God I was never a professor. Thank God I never made it to my freshman year, because I had enough gut common sense to understand that what the public is telling us is to get on with the business of this country.

Mr. Alexander: Let us hear about your ministry, Sir.

Mr. Jamieson: We will get to that. Mr. Speaker, All I am seeking to say—and perhaps the jibes of the members opposite have prompted me to go beyond what I might otherwise have said—

Mr. Alexander: Don't do us any favours.

Mr. Jamieson: A fellow needs what we used to call, in show business, a straight man; the hon. member is pretty good at it.

Mr. Alexander: I am doing all right.

Mr. Jamieson: What I am trying to say is that the important thing at the moment is not who occupies the benches on the right or the left of Mr. Speaker. For my part, I do not particularly care what happens in those terms because, believe me, anybody in this House who thinks that he has some potential claim to immortality because he is here, he is there or he wants to move from there to here, has only to go out to the back of this building and see the statues of the men who have been forgotten for 100 years, 20 years and even 10 years and he will realize that all this is not important.

Mr. Alexander: Tell your leader that, don't tell us.

Mr. Nielsen: Methinks thou doth protest too much.

Mr. Jamieson: May I say to the hon. member that his brother does it better on the ads for the Bank of Montreal. All I am seeking to say—

An hon. Member: Then say it.

Mr. Jamieson: Give me time. All I am saying is that it is about time we realized that we have to come to grips with the important problems and not just play games and not just, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) or someone, said, have one's tongue hanging out, anxious for office. To me that is singularly unimportant. The point is that I find it rather difficult to accept—

Mr. Paproski: Lately?

Mr. Jamieson: I will not answer that remark of the hon. member because in *Hansard* it will not look half as funny as it should. However, Mr. Speaker, I find it very difficult

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to accept that the total solution to this country's problems, as complex as they are, can be simply achieved by transferring one group of individuals from one side of the House to the other. I find it very hard, in looking over, not only the individuals who now occupy the front benches of the official opposition but in examining some of the things they have said over the years, to believe that at the very moment there was a change of government in this country the clouds would open and the Leader of the Opposition would be delivered of tablets of stone on which every problem of the country would be resolved in a split second.

• (2040)

I say that because I find it hard to understand how the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer), who might become the minister under those circumstances, having spent some 20 years establishing the kind of reputation that he now deplors in this government, could suddenly transform this country into some magical Shangrila.

Mr. Nielsen: Have you got an embassy there?

Mr. Jamieson: We don't have an embassy in Shangrila at the moment, but I can assure the hon. member that if he gives us a vote of confidence and he would like the job, I will see that he is first on the list. And I am not at all sure that he would not accept it, Mr. Speaker.

Let us look at what this miraculous group is going to achieve. I wonder how the hon. member for Trinity feels, seated as he is within shooting distance—I use that word advisedly—or those people who tried to destroy him a few years ago, who said he was a total disaster, who damned him into the ground in this House. I am speaking of members who are here now and members who are no longer here. Now he finds it possible to make common cause with them. Is this the man who is going to lead us into the new Jerusalem?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: I have my doubts. Now we come to the *pièce de résistance*, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner). Great Liberal principles? He stands up for them until the time comes when he is no longer the leader and then he switches over to something else. Is this the man who is going to lead us into the new Jerusalem? Is this the party to which we ought to give confidence in this House?

I sympathize with hon. members in the second and third rows opposite, Mr. Speaker. They fought their own battles. They are the ones in this House who tried to keep the real spirit of conservatism going throughout a long period of dreary, arid years. Where do they find themselves now? They find themselves in the third-row; new, "wet behind the ears" members, to quote the right hon. member for Prince Albert. Among them is the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham. Then the Leader of the Opposition says it is terrible to change one's policy. He has changed everything.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!