

*Procedure and Organization*

very hub of this democracy, sank in despair. The throb and vitality of democracy, in a world where democracy is often threatened, was never stronger than it was last Sunday. To this end, the astronauts performed a great service to the free world. Tonight in Canada the strength of democracy has dropped to its lowest ebb in history. This is a black day for this country.

• (9:20 p.m.)

I feel sorry for you this evening, Mr. Speaker. We have had some excellent Speakers in this house, but I doubt if there has been a Speaker who has had the support and unanimous goodwill that Your Honour has had. I respect Your Honour's judgment and fairness. We do not always agree with Your Honour, but there is not a member on either side who does not have affectionate regard for the manner in which Your Honour maintains decorum in this house.

It is going to be a difficult job for Your Honour in the years ahead. The goodwill, frankness and willingness to get along that has characterized this session is not going to continue. I must confess that I am emotionally disturbed tonight. This is not usual for me. I have watched the antics and listened to the remarks of some hon. members opposite. I am very concerned about the closure that has been introduced to-day. I am afraid that what has been the characteristic feature of this session is not going to be here when we return in the fall. It is going to be a drag-out struggle and I can understand why. The majority in a democracy is never stronger than when the rights of the minority are also strong. Today, the rights of the minority in this house are being jeopardized.

I can understand that in the future there will not be the same willingness and desire to get along. It will be difficult for Your Honour. This is unfortunate because at this time, when turmoil and violence seem to be the order of the day and when there is so little respect for law and order in many parts of the world, we need every bit of respect and decorum that we can get in order to hold the good ship stable. I know Your Honour understands what I am trying to say at this time.

As I watch the members on the other side of the house, I cannot help but be confused. Many of those on the other side are good friends of mine. This house produces friendships that go deeper than the general public

understand. Even though we may be on opposite sides on vital and important issues, there is a bond of friendship that develops between many of us that is just as deep and real as any friendships we have in our lives.

As I look across the floor I see the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen). I also see the government whip, a man whose performance in this house and reputation of loyalty to this country and what it represents are beyond question. I cannot help but wonder what is going on in the minds of these men tonight. We probably will never know. There are others who were here earlier tonight. I think of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing), the Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith) and the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux). Some of these men have served long years in this house and I know the respect in which they hold it. I know of their own dedication to democracy.

A great deal has been said about the minority governments that existed between the years of 1963 and 1968. There were many difficult hours and days in those parliaments. Even though those of us on the opposition side sometimes disagreed bitterly with the issues before us, we always felt the former Prime Minister, Mr. Pearson, had respect for this house. When you can trust a man's motives, even though you may disagree with him, there will still be bonds of friendship and confidence. There will be the stability which democracy and this house need.

I am afraid when I watch the pattern of progress of this government. I think the government house leader and I entered Parliament at the same time. When I watch the action and reaction develop in some of the members who came to this house just a year ago, having had a pattern set by some of their own leaders such as the government house leader for this type of problem we are now facing, I fear for the parliament of Canada. The expression on the face of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) this afternoon indicated his attitude. There was fear in my heart and soul because I could not see in him the respect and sense of value this institution, of which we are a part, deserves.

The other day I asked a simple question about whether the Prime Minister was going to stay in this house to take care of the ship during what I regarded as an important debate, this debate, or whether he was going to keep an announced appointment with the people in the west. He said the people in the west were more important than this "stupid