

*Government Orders*

I was reminiscing with the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville earlier this evening. When I celebrated my 30th birthday, we were in the middle of a constitutional crisis in this House in 1981. I hope that when I celebrate my 50th birthday in this House that we will be beyond this.

I had a comment for the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants. If I could get people's attention, particularly the member for Brampton who was part of this debate. When the member for Annapolis Valley—Hants made his suggestion as to how the Prime Minister could help the situation by considering whether or not he ought to resign, by considering whether or not he is part of the problem, the hon. member for Brampton said that the Prime Minister was not a quitter.

I respect that view that the hon. member for Brampton has of the Prime Minister, but I think there does come a time when quitting is not necessarily a disgraceful thing to do, particularly when there is a widespread view that is held in a widespread way that the Prime Minister is part of the problem.

We can leave it to the historians to debate whether this is in fact the case, but it is also the case that the Prime Minister should consider this. I think that the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants has made a suggestion that should be taken seriously by the Prime Minister.

I am sorry there are not more members here, and I am sorry the Prime Minister is not here to hear what has been a very good debate about this. I think that we should do this more often, have a real debate, the kind of debate that we have threatened to have tonight.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with more or less everything the hon. member from Bird's Hill said. I have a great respect for him.

He has been a member of the constitutional committee of this House of Commons for years. He was one of the members who was in opposition at the same time as I was. That is the point about the member from Brampton. The fundamental problem of the Tory Party today in government is it forgets from when they came.

You can have the Prime Minister. I agree there are certain things that I will take exception with the Prime Minister on. But the fundamental thing is that the public

of Canada in 1984 and in 1988, but especially in 1984, went for the Tory Party for a change. We were good opposition people.

• (0010 )

Long before the member from Brampton came out of the Chamber of Commerce down there in the south-western horseshoe, and got into the House of Commons, there were some of us here carrying the torch. We were carrying the torch and we carried it pretty gosh-darned well.

Then we get into government and there are so many new members of government and a new Prime Minister, none of whom understand Parliament. They think that they can hoodwink the Canadian people by just abusing and contradicting in government what we used to say in opposition. You can shake it all down. There may be night sittings that we do not have so that we can get to know each other and some of us know each other too well. There may be a multitude of things, but the fundamental thing, I will be here long after the next election which the member from Brampton would be at the present time.

The fundamental thing is this, that unfortunately, the members of opposition who became government, and especially got inoculated with cabinet juices, and started to drive cabinet cars, and started to have cabinet perks and then told caucus what to do, they forgot that what we used to say here was so nasty. With television, good or bad, an educated public, they are not going to put up with that any more and that is one of the reasons for the malaise.

Coming back to the question from Birds Hill, I agree with the member obviously, but the member for Birds Hill and other members on both sides, and there are some members even on the government side today, and that is one of the reasons I broke with the government in a sense. The member from Brampton will never experience this. He never wanted to ever vote other than what he was told to so that he could get his—

**Mr. Blaikie:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I wonder why we could not agree that the pages be permitted to go home.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is there agreement? It is agreed that the pages be able to go home.