

Procedure and Organization

Mr. Hees: I did not understand. I am afraid the minister was mumbling.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I ask the hon. member whether he agrees his 35 minute speech would have been better tabled rather than delivered?

Mr. Hees: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker. As Your Honour and every member sitting in this house noticed, all hon. members were sitting listening to every word I said.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: You bet your boots you were! I was speaking with the sort of notes I said all members should use. We would have far better speeches if all hon. members used them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please.

Mr. Hees: I suggest to the hon. minister that when he speaks he should try using this method. His speeches will be far more effective as a result.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Are there any further questions?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. The answer has been given.

Mr. Ross Whicher (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the speech which has just been made by the hon. member. I do not know whether the hon. member had his tongue in his cheek when he said everyone in the House of Commons was listening. In any event, I listened. I want to say that the first 10 minutes of his speech comprised one of the best speeches I have heard in the House of Commons since I have been here. The last 25 minutes were one of the worst. In the first 10 minutes, he made some suggestions that certainly should be looked into by the government. Hon. members should think about these suggestions and perhaps they can be implemented in the future.

First, the hon. member suggested that speeches should be short. He will be pleased to know that the speech I am about to make will be short. I hope it will not be more than 10 minutes' duration. The hon. member emphasized the fact that speeches should not be written. My speech is not. The hon. member mentioned the fact that we should not use notes too liberally. He will be very pleased to

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know that I have no notes to assist me in this speech.

Second, the hon. member suggested that we should look into the proposition of filing some of the written speeches that members of the House of Commons might wish to deliver, as is the practice in the United States Congress. I think the hon. member is quite correct in this suggestion because there are members who must get their ideas back to the people at home, the voters, supporters, and citizens they are proud to represent, in order that they will know what a particular member may be thinking. The hon. gentleman was quite correct in suggesting that the government should look at the proposition of filing written speeches.

Third, the hon. member suggested we would have better speeches if they were shorter. In the first part of his address he quoted names such as Lincoln and Winston Churchill. Of course there are innumerable speakers throughout the world who have done a wonderful job delivering short speeches. Quite frankly, I believe it would be a better assembly if the speeches were shorter.

In the last part of his speech the hon. member lectured the government, and, in his absence, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). He said the Prime Minister wished to use this house as a classroom. He compared him with a professor in college, saying an examination was going to be held on such and such a day and that he expected people to stand at attention whenever he came along; in other words, to act as a dictator.

This is not correct, Mr. Speaker. What my hon. friend, and all members to the left of Your Honour, must realize is that on June 25 one year ago the people of Canada made a choice and, Mr. Speaker, they did not choose those to the left of Your Honour. This is something the opposition are not bearing in mind. They must realize the reason they were not chosen was because the electors did not think they could do as good a job as the people who sit to the right of Your Honour. The right hon. Prime Minister was chosen to lead this country. By attempting to bring this rule into force in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister is attempting to do the job he is supposed to do, namely, lead Canada to a better and just society.

My hon. friend can very well be critical, but this is one of the fundamental points members to the left of Your Honour must appreciate. They were not put in government