

followed. Not only was there haste in indicating closure on the very proper discussion as to whether it is or is not advisable that this form of measure be introduced, but even before the minister who introduced the motion had completed his first speech on the motion he indicated that debate is to be terminated.

Closure has taken place in this house before. It was first applied in the discussion of the navy bill in the session of 1912-13. That bill was introduced on December 5, 1912. Those who have followed the history of our parliament will recall that there was a prolonged debate carried on most vigorously on both sides, and closure was applied only on April 10, 1913. Then in 1917 there was a bill guaranteeing certain Canadian National Railway bonds. In that case closure was applied on third reading and only on third reading, after the whole processes of debate had been exhausted in the ordinary way.

Again in 1917, closure was applied on second reading of the wartime elections act, and later in the committee stage and on third reading. In the first session of 1919 the Canadian National Railways bill was before the house and closure was applied after there had been a full discussion on the second reading stage and in committee of the whole. Again in 1921, on an interim supply motion, closure was applied when it was made clear that the opposition was not going to allow it to go through. Again in 1926, in the debate on the address, there was closure. In 1932 closure was again moved. In that instance it was moved after there had been considerable debate.

An hon. Member: What was the subject?

Mr. Drew: The subject was a very interesting one, I am sure, to the hon. member. It was unemployment relief. The unemployment relief bill had been introduced by the Bennett government and at that time it was being opposed by the Liberal party.

Mr. Lesage: Twenty cents a day.

Mr. Rowe: Your party would not give them a 5-cent piece.

Mr. Lesage: Twenty cents a day.

Mr. Rowe: You would not give them five cents.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): One at a time.

Mr. Brown (Essex West): Blast your way into—

Mr. Drew: I have mentioned this, recognizing that closure has been applied in this house as it has been applied at Westminster under certain circumstances. But there is no

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single case where a minister has come forward in the very initial stages and said: "We place before you the proposition that it is expedient that this bill be introduced and we are going to move right away to stop any debate on this subject".

Mr. Robichaud: After seven votes.

Mr. Drew: I hear an hon. member opposite say after seven votes. If the hon. member was in the house—

Mr. McIlraith: He was.

Mr. Robichaud: And voted seven times.

Mr. Drew: —he knows perfectly well that those votes were not taken on this motion.

Mr. Lesage: It was obstruction.

Mr. Rowe: He never noticed that.

Mr. Drew: I think some of the hon. members opposite—

Mr. Robichaud: Taken to prevent debate.

Mr. Drew: —have been unaware of what has taken place.

Mr. Rowe: They usually are.

Mr. Hees: They just do what they are told.

The Chairman: Order. I must remind hon. members that the Leader of the Opposition has the floor and he may not be interrupted without his consent.

Mr. MacDougall: The Leader of the Opposition himself is laughing at that one.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I am in the fortunate position where I shall be able to make my point without being forced to proceed with any haste, just in case any of the hon. members opposite may not be able to hear me. Should it happen that at any time I feel they are not likely to hear me I shall make appropriate pauses.

Mr. Dickey: The pause that refreshes.

Mr. Gardiner: You are preventing every other one from speaking.

Mr. Rowe: You have done all right; you have put on closure.

Mr. Drew: The Minister of Agriculture, the expert on *Hansard*—

Mr. Gardiner: He will be on *Hansard* a long time after you are forgotten.

Mr. Drew: —has just made an interjection which I have no doubt will not be expurgated in this instance; but he has interjected the remark that I am making it impossible for others to debate. I am not making it impossible for anyone to debate.