

*Morality in Government*

It may be that when the Prime Minister—or perhaps it was some of his assistants, I do not know—looked over these files he found Liberals with some kind of record and did not want to bring them forward. I think we should know about this from the Prime Minister. I am sorry he is not here; I am also very sorry to learn he is indisposed with a cold. It is unfortunate that this matter should come up at a time when he is not in his seat, because it is he and his government who are the ones on trial. Beyond that, there is no question but that this parliament, in the eyes of the people, is on trial. Parliament has a certain dignity, or it used to have. But dignity it should have, and if hon. member in the government and elsewhere conducted themselves as they should vis-à-vis other members, it would still preserve its dignity.

I was very much embarrassed last night, on listening to the program "This Hour has Seven Days", to hear the House of Commons referred to as the common house by one gentleman taking part. That might be all right for a laugh for some people, but it is something that should not be perpetrated by the press or others. This house is for dignified people and, above all, it must be kept that way if we are to maintain the respect of the nation and fulfil our parts in the function of passing laws for the guidance and government of the people.

The action of the Prime Minister is merely a symptom of what is wrong with this parliament. The root of the problem is the weakness of the government. It has to resort, in seeking some revenge, to asking for files on Liberal members, N.D.P. members, Social Credit members as well as Progressive Conservative members. Resort to those tactics certainly indicates that something is wrong with the present government. The only thing you can do with a weak government like the present one is to toss it out, because there never was a weaker government in office in the Dominion of Canada. All you have to do is to talk to the people; they will tell you the same thing.

No longer does this government, Mr. Speaker, hold the confidence of this house. Neither does it hold the confidence of the people. It is high time for them to make amends, go before the electorate and let the electorate decide on what action to take. For this reason I would therefore support the amendment to the motion before the house.

**Mr. Orange:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

[Mr. Kindt.]

**Mr. Kindt:** I shall answer all questions when I have finished, and I am almost through. As I said before, the thing to do is to support this motion and throw out the present government in view of the tactics which have been used by the Prime Minister. Let the people decide on the type of government this country should have. The time is ripe, the ground has been prepared, and the way has been paved by the actions of the Prime Minister. No other course of action seems logical at this particular stage of this parliament.

**Mr. Orange:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the hon. member who has just sat down. During the course of his speech he brought out the fact that perhaps this nation is prepared for a general election. I would just like to know in my own mind whether that is exactly what he said—that if this amendment does go through we should have a general election in the country at this time?

**Mr. Southam:** If this amendment goes through you will have nothing to say about it.

● (8:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Kindt:** I was going to say the very same thing before the hon. member interjected that remark. I do not say we would have to have an election, but it may be the only way to get rid of a government of this kind, a weak government such as we now have in power. There may be other alternatives, but a last resort may be to have another election. The people are fed up with elections and I hesitate to think about another election. However I will say this, that the people would be more willing to have another election than they would be to tolerate any more nonsense or weakness from this particular government.

**Mr. Orange:** May I ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member has posed his question. The Secretary of State for External Affairs.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat will not misunderstand me if I do not follow his line of thought and if I seek to establish a basis for the discussion for the remaining part of this debate which, I think we will all agree upon reflection, should govern our consideration of a matter of such importance. The Leader of the Opposition