

The Address—Mr. Churchill

Then I point out the danger of it. Dennis Braithwaite writes on these matters with considerable knowledge, and in his article in the *Globe and Mail* this morning he has already settled the issue. He has determined for himself that the Liberal front bench is photogenic and will carry everything before it. The back-benchers again are left out. But he says the Liberal front bench is fine and that the Liberal team will shape up very well under the leadership of the Prime Minister. However, he closes with this paragraph, and here is where the danger lies:

Who should edit the videotapes, the Speaker of the House or some other so-called neutral functionary? Not at all. Editing must remain the sole responsibility of whatever producer is in charge, or someone he selects for the job.

• (12 noon)

So there you have it; it has all been prepared. Television will be brought into this chamber. The photogenic cabinet will appear on the screens. There will be a careful editing. We will have a Grit film strip for distribution across this country. This is the reason I suggest we should start with radio. This is a sophisticated medium, to use the modern term. No equipment is needed. All you need is a little gadget in front of you on the desk.

Then I say let it be a live program, unedited, unexpurgated and, to use Arthur Meighen's phrase, unrevised and unrepented. Let the actual words go out to the people of the country, not somebody's expurgated edition. I have often taken part in some of these little radio and television interviews. I have spoken freely to the interviewer for 15 or 20 minutes. Then two things have happened. Either I do not appear at all on television, which is understandable, or only a sentence or two is extracted from what I have said.

I do not mind my words going out over the air in the same way they are uttered in this chamber. Many people sit in these galleries and listen to what is said and form their own opinions. I do not mind if a million radio listeners have the same opportunity. So I would start with radio. Let us see what the result would be; let us have an unedited, unexpurgated edition go out to the people. I should like the people of this country to hear the evasive answers of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer). I should like to listen to the million gasps of utter astonishment when the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) gives one of his tortuous, involved, meandering answers to questions in this house. Then the

people of this country really would understand what is going on here. When it is heard it is much different to what it is when it is read.

This is where I would make my start. I would take the proceedings of this chamber to the people of the country. If the people of this country realized the fundamental purpose of this institution I believe there would be less criticism of it. I deplore members of this chamber who contribute to this type of criticism which is expressed across this country—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Churchill: —led by the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet. Last night when I was speaking on this subject I said this is the year when we should thank God that we have a democratic institution like this, free from *coups d'état* and revolutions. For 100 years this institution has remained relatively unimpaired with its foundations not under attack as they have been in recent years. This is what I hope we will guard against here.

Two or three days ago when the Prime Minister was talking about the necessity to organize our program for this session he did exactly what he has done every year he has been in office. He has locked himself in; he has locked the House of Commons in. He holds a club over the House of Commons right now. He did it in 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, and now he is at it again.

Let us take a look at what has happened. He outlined to us the things which he considers should be done during this session before there is what had been previously referred to as a summer recess or summer break. He listed certain items. All one need do is take a pencil stub and a piece of paper to discover the things he would like to do before there is a summer break. It would take 70 sitting days to complete the list. In other words it would take us until the middle of August. Therefore I announce now to members of this House of Commons that not until the middle of August will they have any opportunity to be with their constituents during this centennial year, or to participate in any of the centennial celebrations which will be going on in their home towns or cities, because the Prime Minister already has set the pattern. He has said what he wants done.