

*Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act*

and doggedly over this Bill. I know the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier is here not just to defend the interests of employees on Parliament Hill, not all of them, but a good many are constituents of his, and it is for a good reason that during the last election, people trusted the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier, Mr. Speaker. They knew from experience that the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier, whether in Government or in Opposition, is someone on whom they can rely to defend them.

Unfortunately—Mr. Speaker, I see that my time has almost expired—unfortunately in 1988 we will not be in a position to say the same thing about a very large majority of Conservative Members, because people will not know whether or not they defended their interests as the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier did.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope in conclusion that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) will show her concern for human values and urge her cabinet colleagues not only to allow employees of the House of Commons to enjoy the right to strike but to pay for their litigation expenses.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions, comments?

● (2050)

[English]

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to speak in this debate. We are in the last week of the session before the summer recess. I understand that there have been discussions among House Leaders and some agreements, at least informal ones, have been arrived at in order that a certain number of Bills which are still before the House can be dealt with before we adjourn on Friday. We have been told that to accomplish that end we should show some restraint in debate.

Since we made our position clear with respect to this Bill during the debate at second reading stage, and since members of our Party who sat on the committee which dealt with this Bill clause by clause explained our views and proposed amendments which were debated at report stage, I did not think it was necessary to speak. However, I have to say that there is one thing which has been made very clear to me again tonight; that is the tremendous difference between members of the Liberal Party when they form the Government and members of the Liberal Party when they sit in opposition.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You'll never know because you'll never be a Liberal.

**Mr. Orlikow:** I know exactly what I am saying. A few years after I first came to this place I remember a Liberal Member of Parliament from Ottawa who had about a dozen or 15 chairs sitting outside his office at all times. Since I was curious about this I asked one day what the chairs were doing there. It was explained to me that if any person wanted a job on Parliament Hill, they had to approach this Liberal Member of

Parliament. He saw that they either got a job or did not get a job. He had the power and the influence.

Between four and five years ago when a few employees on Parliament Hill decided that enough was enough, that conditions were such that they needed to belong to a union, my assistant, Alain Piché, spoke to me. He told me that he had been approached by these people. He asked me if I would mind if, in the evenings, he helped those people who wished to belong to a union. I told him that of course I would not mind. I believe that every Canadian who wants to belong to a union should have the right to belong to one.

I wish to say to Liberal Members of Parliament that those people who first took the lead with respect to organizing workers on Parliament Hill, the people who work in the cafeterias, the restaurants, the messengers, the people in the post office, security staff and bus-drivers, did it very quietly. They did it almost surreptitiously because they knew that they would not receive much sympathy. In fact, there was no sympathy on the part of Liberal cabinet Ministers. They knew that there was real opposition on the part of senior administrators in this place to their desire to belong to unions. I was quite happy to allow my assistant do that work for them.

After about two years he came to me and asked if he could have a leave of absence without pay in order to work full-time at this job. I remind Hon. Members that during these years that this was happening there was a Liberal Government in place. Where were the Liberal Members of Parliament then? Where were those who made these great speeches tonight about this Bill which we are to pass not being good enough? Where were they then? They were conspicuous by their absence. There was not the slightest indication given, certainly not publicly, that any Liberal Member, and certainly no Liberal cabinet Minister, really believed that the people who work on Parliament Hill should have the right to belong to a union, any union.

**Mr. Caccia:** How do you know? Why do you make such a silly statement?

**Mr. Orlikow:** On the basis of the record.

**Mr. Caccia:** That is absolute nonsense. There is no record that you can quote.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please.

**Mr. Caccia:** You are pulling it out of thin air. That is irresponsible.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** There will be an opportunity for questions and comments after the Hon. Member terminates his speech. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) has the floor.

**Mr. Orlikow:** The Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) has the same right as I have to speak. If he wants to disagree with me, or if he wants to give evidence to say that what I am saying is not correct, then he can do that.