

Motion under S.O. 75C

dandy! I challenge the minister and his fellow cabinet ministers to tell that to the unemployed. These are the scapegoats they have picked on. Go down to those parts of the country where they cannot defend themselves. What do you replace it with? The Canada Works program and the Young Canada Works program? What a travesty! A saving of \$100 million, and you are putting out \$300 million for nothing! That is the game they are playing, and it is why they have to bring closure to get the thing shuffled off to Buffalo. That will not rub. They also run around using certain terms. They say this is not a closure debate but allocation of time. Unemployment is not unemployment any more; it is called surplus employment capacity. I recognize all these "Liberalisms", but we must call a spade a spade.

● (1650)

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

Mr. Frank Maine (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed and disgusted at some of the nonsense that I have heard in this House from people who are supposed to run this country. The members of this House are fiddling while the country is burning. Most of the comments that I want to make have already been made by the hon. members for Gloucester (Mr. Breau) and Ontario (Mr. Cafik), so I will not waste the time of the House by repeating what they said.

In the United Kingdom, with roughly 630 members of parliament, they have realized the ludicrousness of saying that all members should have the chance to speak on every bill. Therefore, they allocate one day as the average time for the reading of a bill at any stage. When are we going to wake up to the fact that because we are so slow getting things done in this House the House is being bypassed?

There is a backlog of two years of legislation which has not been brought to the House. More and more decisions are being made by order in council and bureaucrats because the members of the House are not in the twentieth century. We have not realized how complex this life has become and that we have to make decisions more rapidly than we did in the past century. Most of the members of this House are simply contributing to the mess we are in by not doing anything to correct the situation.

To say the government is not concerned about unemployment is absolute nonsense, sheer rubbish. I am disappointed in the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). He usually leads a very high level of debate in this House, but what he said was sheer, utter rubbish and he should know better.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is true.

Mr. Maine: Oh, come on! I think we have got to get serious. We have had a couple of attempts at trying to reform the rules of this House. The Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization has had a crack at it. Two private members' hours have been devoted to that subject. We had the motion of the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave), so

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

at least one member in this House is trying to do something. I ask that more effort be put into trying to update our rules and regulations.

The comment that we are a majority government, that we are arrogant and can do what we want, is sheer rubbish. We are a party to the middle, with a party to the left and a party to the right of us, so no matter what we do we are going to make someone unhappy. That we cannot satisfy everybody is a fact of political life that should be realized by hon. members, instead of trying to make cheap political points all the time, accusing the government of all kinds of things that it is not doing.

Mr. Rodriguez: That's the trouble; they're not doing anything.

Mr. Maine: That is not true at all. So I will finish my brief intervention, Mr. Speaker, by imploring the members of this House to get serious about reforming the rules of this House and to get out into the twentieth century.

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I must say at the outset I was quite pleased to hear the previous speaker make his representation. For a parliamentary secretary, he did an admirable job and I am sure it will be brought to the attention of the people in control of things and the hon. member's name will be put in a very high priority position for one of the cherished positions within the Liberal party.

An hon. Member: A cheap shot.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: It was a slap-shot, not a cheap shot. I want the members of the government to understand what I am trying to do here. The motion which has been brought forward by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) has been commented on astutely by the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski), who said that we should now be considering precisely why the motion was brought forward at this time and whether it is appropriate or inappropriate. I would simply suggest to the minister, who may wince a little as I do so, that the reason he is now bringing forward this motion is that he is a "nervous Nellie" with respect to the remarks that will be made in the debate if his own members are allowed to participate.

For him to come forward and suggest that it is the opposition which has somehow caused him and the government to cringe and to bring forward this motion so we can get on with the business of the House is simply ludicrous. The minister knows that his own members are very, very unhappy about the unemployment situation in this country. They are very sensitive about it. They know that this is the most important debate that should be before this House. When we talk about the relevance of parliament we should talk about the relevance of the issues that we are discussing. The fact of the matter is that we have in excess of one million people unemployed in this country, and that is the issue to which parliament should be devoting its attention. It should not be devoting its attention to the Lands Surveys Act or to the Historic Sites and Monu-