

Procedure and Organization

Liberal cabinet member of another Liberal government will certainly apply to this government.

Let me refer to the statement of another former Liberal cabinet minister, and this also applies:

If this is to be the funeral of Liberalism I do not wish to be even an honorary pall bearer at the funeral.

Members of this government, in spite of the fact they are dominated by the troika, should consider this move which will destroy this parliament and this country. It is not too late to change for the better, and in this regard Liberals should take a second look at what they are trying to impose upon all members of this parliament, including their own back-benchers. They should change this course of action before it is too late. It is of the utmost importance to each and every member of this house that the proposed rule 75c be withdrawn. What may not appear to be important today could very well adversely affect every individual member of this house tomorrow.

Again I could refer to Bill C-135 and its detrimental effects. Some of these effects were acknowledged by the minister in charge of this Crown corporation. He has placed on record the fact that discrimination has been practised. I say to you, in spite of the fact that this has been acknowledged by the responsible minister, that it is not the fault of any member of this house. I ask the Liberal members to take a good close look at Bill C-135 and the results that have come from the passage of this legislation, which I maintain is good except for a few minor parts.

One result of this legislation has been a report that members of parliament have not had the opportunity to see. Because members have not had a chance to see it, discrimination has been practised in this country. Every member of this house is at fault for not correcting this situation. Certainly, it is within the authority of the government to do so.

In speaking of Bill C-135 I am reminded of the fact that the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was the minister of justice at the time this legislation was introduced. I could point to some things in it to indicate that there have been some very obvious mistakes made. These could also be corrected, as it is within the authority of the government to do so. At the time this legislation was drafted no one disputed this particular point. I have in

mind the authority given to the Crown corporation. Let me repeat, it was the present Prime Minister who was then minister of justice.

This Crown corporation was given the authority to purchase the lands beneath the sea off the Island of Cape Breton. Bill C-135 dealt with the coal industry. This authority was included in the legislation introduced in this house by the then minister of justice. What did this government and the Prime Minister do a few short months later? He made the arbitrary decision that offshore mineral rights belong to the federal government. He has since worked out a formula, but whether it will be accepted by the provinces is another question. The fact remains that this piece of legislation went through this house and was examined without the use of a rule such as 75c. This legislation authorized the Crown corporation to purchase land beneath the sea.

I cannot understand the sudden reversal in approach, but this reversal was made. It is for this reason I object to rule 75c which will, if accepted, prevent the members of this house from thoroughly examining legislation of the type included in Bill C-135. This right will be completely ignored. This will prevent any proper examination of a legislative measure, and therefore errors such as the kind to which I have referred will not be corrected. There have been stupid, undemocratic and even dictatorial actions taken by former Liberal governments. Perhaps hon. members could learn something from their own history if they study some of the worst possible examples available to them of this type of action.

Let me refer hon. members to the defence debate, and the fact that the chairman of that committee came into this house with a pack of lies in respect of what took place in that committee. He told this house lies in respect of the committee's hearings and then had his own Minister of National Defence stand and use those lies in this house for his own purpose. I refer to the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Deachman). Of course, he came into national prominence when he went to the press and leaked decisions in relation to the flag debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.