

Members on the government side will have to keep that in mind.

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) must also take into consideration that the amendments brought in up to now, and the one moved today, are supported by the 70,000 Catholic parents who have asked for the withdrawal of the omnibus bill or at least for the acceptance of the amendments moved by the opposition.

With such an abundance of protests, do you know what I was told by my constituents whom I met during the week end. They told me: "There is only one solution left to the Liberals, especially the Quebec Liberals who do not even dare to assert themselves: either to accept the amendments as such or to resign." You have the choice, my good friends, if tomorrow the government members reject that sensible amendment, because I know that in their midst, there is a large number who every day come to tell us in the lobbies or elsewhere: "Continue to fight, because we cannot say anything." The coward who hides behind the curtains does not have the courage to rise and to seek justice for his fellow citizens.

We taxpayers are in favour of such sensible amendments, because they would allow us to include in the committee a clergyman whom we represent as the members of any denomination in Canada. The passage of such an amendment would give us a little more freedom in Canada and we are convinced in advance that when the question will be put, the authoritarian vote of a Prime Minister who establishes a dictatorship will compel all members of his party to follow him and come back to the fold. Moreover, when the time comes to close the door of the sheep-fold, those people, instead of listening to the voice of truth, will still object.

I am not an expert in medicine, but I am a legislator who has been elected by his constituents and in that capacity, I maintain that we must rely on competent persons, such as those we met in the committees as well as those who lodged some protests—I have submitted to the Minister of Justice more than 8,000 names—those who gave some explanations and who inspired us as they are now inspiring the hon. member for Brandon-Souris to put amendments which would tone down the omnibus bill a little.

But no, under a dictatorship, the tables would be turned and still a government who

would claim a majority, could get a legislation passed as it wanted it, without amendment.

Mr. Speaker, as legislators, with our conscience and the courage of our convictions, we must express aloud what the people think but do not say, and if, in this house, the dictatorial muzzle imposed on government members unfortunately prevents the truth from being known, we of the Ralliement créditiste, shall go on fighting to bring it to light. We support unreservedly the amendment moved by a Conservative member.

**Mr. J. A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, I only rise to ask your permission to read an editorial from a Catholic French-Canadian newspaper which was founded by the Oblates Fathers. I am referring to *Le Droit* of Monday May 5, 1969, and for the enlightenment of those of our friends who have no opportunity to read this newspaper, I should like to put this article on record. It is entitled: "Le bill omnibus et les créditistes".

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I suspect the hon. member if rising for the same reason that I am rising, that is to remind the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) that at this point the debate should be directed to the amendment. If the editorial deals with the amendment specifically, then it is in order. However, I invite the hon. member to confine his remarks to the amendment.

● (8:50 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Speaker, I have been listening for two long weeks, and in order to explain my position—

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker—

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order please. The hon. member for Lotbinière on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, we are very glad that the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) is taking the trouble of reading that stupid editorial. Besides, he will thus show that he is as stupid as the editorial.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.