

Government Organization Act, 1970

majority. It is placing shackles, bridles and fetters on this House. It is a dangerous bill.

The Prime Minister does not stay in this House when introducing his own bill. Even his parliamentary secretary is not here. On a bill of such importance, to which the Prime Minister placed his own name, it is difficult to understand why he is not here.

The explanation for what is being done is that it will provide flexibility and efficiency. This causes me to quote the words of Voltaire, who was referred to by the Prime Minister the other day, and who said, "There are some men who use thought only to justify their wrong doings, and speak only to conceal their thoughts." That is what is happening here. The Prime Minister recently indicated that the statesman with whom he felt the greatest affinity was Machiavelli. I have in my hand a volume called "Machiavelli The Prince". The Minister of Justice is looking at the picture on it and he will see that it bears a striking physical affinity to his leader's appearance. In fact, if it were not for the identification and the fact that this is a picture of a death mask, frequent mistakes would be made by those who look at it.

• (3:20 p.m.)

When a political philosopher receives the approval of the Prime Minister, it is interesting to read some of the observations. This is a Penguin Classic book, and I am sure all hon. members will want to get it. At page 91 I find this:

The fact is that a man who wants to act virtuously in every way necessarily comes to grief among so many who are not virtuous. Therefore, if a prince wants to maintain his rule he must learn how not to be virtuous, and to make use of this or not according to need.

Then, I shall read this part:

—he should not deviate from what is good, if that is possible, but he should know how to do evil, if that is necessary.

Here is another quotation:

—a prudent ruler cannot, and should not, honour his word when it places him at a disadvantage and when the reasons for which he made his promise no longer exist—a prince will never lack good excuses to colour his bad faith. One could give innumerable modern instances of this, showing how many pacts and promises have been made null and void by the bad faith of princes:—one must know how to colour one's actions—Men are so simple, and so much creatures of circumstances, that the deceiver will always find someone ready to be deceived.

The cabinet deserves to be mentioned and Machiavelli says:

—a shrewd prince should adopt a middle way, choosing wise men for his government—

Apparently, the Prime Minister did not follow that principle.

—allowing only those the freedom to speak the truth to him, and then only concerning matters on which he asks their opinion, and nothing else.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: There are many other good statements here which indicate a dangerous philosophy. Here is another:

How princes should honour their word—praiseworthy it is for a prince to honour his word and to be straightforward rather than crafty in his dealings; nonetheless contemporary experience shows that princes who have achieved great things have been those who have given their word lightly, who have known how to trick men with their cunning, and who, in the end, have overcome those abiding by honest principles.

The Chairman: Order, please. I regret that I must interrupt the right hon. gentleman. I only do so to advise him that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

The Chairman: The right hon. gentleman may continue with the consent of the committee. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Chairman: There is no consent.

An hon. Member: Who said no?

The Chairman: I might say to members of the committee that it is very difficult for the Chair to ascertain whether there is consent when I hear negative voices. I am prepared to put the question again. Is there consent—

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: Order, please. Is there consent for the right hon. gentleman to continue?

Some hon. Members: No.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: There is no consent.

Mr. MacInnis: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that the "no" from that side of the House came from behind the curtain. No member standing behind the curtain is entitled to voice an opinion.

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

The Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Alexander: I was going to bring that matter to your notice, Mr. Chairman. I think it is extremely important at this time to note that the Minister of Justice, in his wisdom, has indicated on behalf of his party that there is general agreement for the right hon. gentleman to continue. I would hope that the Chair has noted that and will appreciate the significance of it.