

for members on this side of the House to reply to, yet, never before in the history of this Parliament were there delivered in this House speeches more full of information, more full of unanswerable argument, than were those presented by hon. gentlemen on this side. That is the feeling of the people of this country. Compelled, as I have said, to discuss the matter under these unfavourable and unfair conditions, hon. members on this side rose to the occasion; they discussed this great question as it ought to be discussed, and as I have said, the speeches they made in the committee were models of parliamentary discussion and are of the utmost value in informing the public mind upon this question. This continued until Saturday night. All hon. members on this side, even then, had not had opportunity to speak. The debate was continued in the following week. And when Friday night came, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers)—who has had an experience in Manitoba which has rather led the people of Canada to believe that his position is that when people stand in his way politically—the proper thing to do is to arrest them and send them to prison—seemed to think that the right way to get this Bill through was to appoint temporary chairmen of the committee whose views would be known and who could be relied upon to rule in accordance with the wishes of the Government on the various questions raised. And what was done first? My hon. friend from Brandon (Mr. Aikins) was one of the first to be appointed temporary chairman. My hon. friend the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Blondin) perhaps, was not in the House just at the moment when the hon. member for Brandon took the Chair, but if my memory serves me well, he was here immediately after.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I myself called the hon. member to the Chair. I was quite exhausted. Really I was sick.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I can well understand that my hon. friend would be sick. But what does he think of the conduct of the majority of the House in keeping the rest of us here all these days and nights? Does he think that we have greater physical powers of endurance than he? Does he think it is our duty to stay here more than it is his duty to stay here? I have no doubt he was sick—sick and disgusted with what was taking place in this House, the majority of the House riding roughshod over the minority and trampling under foot the liberties of the people. No wonder the hon. gentleman was sick. But that is not the question. I venture to say that no temporary chairman should rule upon points of order where the two parties of this House are divided. I venture to say that when an important question arises, when a member takes the Chair, as he does, only temporarily for

Mr. PUGSLEY.

the release of the Deputy Speaker, if any question of order arises, the temporary Chairman ought to ask the Prime Minister to move that the committee rise, or he ought to ask that the Deputy Speaker take the Chair and rule upon the point. If it were otherwise, what protection would the minority in this House have? Take, as I have said, the action of the hon. member for Brandon. I venture to say, Sir, that the Deputy Speaker will not tell me that he called upon the hon. member for Brandon without suggestion from anybody?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I certainly will.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I accept the statement of my hon. friend. But it struck me as an extraordinary situation. We had had an amendment, moved by the leader of the Opposition, to the resolution upon which this Bill was founded. No objection was taken to it as being out of order, and a vote was taken upon that amendment. Later we had that same form of words moved as an amendment to the second clause of the Bill. That was discussed for nearly a fortnight. And it struck me as peculiar that the hon. member for Brandon should be called to the Chair and that my right hon. friend the leader of the Government should then, after this great length of time and in the absence of the leader of the Opposition who had moved that amendment take the ground that the amendment was out of order, and that the hon. member for Brandon should be so ready in giving decision, to deliver a carefully prepared argument, with as my hon. friend from Rouville reminds me, the authorities which he thought might support him evidently carefully looked up and at hand. There are some things that we cannot know in this world; but if we have any reasonable judgment we can form a shrewd suspicion with regard to them. I leave the situation with the hon. member for Brandon as it is and say nothing further, beyond this—that the hon. member for Brandon, being temporary Chairman for the purpose of relieving the Deputy Speaker, he ought not to have given a decision upon this important question. It is recognized in the British House of Commons that a temporary Chairman must not decide these important questions. Take the matter of closure; the rules specifically provide that no temporary chairman shall have the right to apply closure. And why is it so? Parliament, both in England and in this country, recognizes that after a member is elected to the office of Speaker he ought at least to try to hold the scales evenly as between the two parties. It is not always done, I admit, but Parliament is ready to agree that the Speaker shall keep himself aloof from party, and