

Summer Recess

today that we should not abuse our parliamentary immunity and should not accuse someone before that person has been charged and proved guilty.

I lose some of my respect for members when I see a deliberate obstruction of Parliament, when I see Parliament being hijacked, valuable time being wasted and other members being held here as hostages. Last night we experienced an episode where the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton was protecting the rights of the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour). That was very praiseworthy. It took a whole hour. Today two hours were wasted on the motion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. That is three hours in which we could have passed very important legislation through this House. However, that time was wasted. That is when I become disappointed and start losing some of the respect I hope I will continue to hold.

● (2150)

I was very disappointed when the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton tried to deny members on this side the right to speak. The hon. member said, "I was trying to save the House the trouble of listening to the Postmaster General". The House leader of the official opposition preaches about the right of every member to be heard and then stands up in his place and attempts to deny a minister the right to speak. I suggest it is not the role of the opposition to hold members of this Parliament hostage. I suggest it is not the role of the opposition to waste time deliberately, to hijack Parliament and to delay deliberately the passage of important bills.

I do not mind sitting here all summer. I can sit through July, through August and through September if the opposition has something constructive to contribute. But what have we heard from the opposition? We have heard no constructive or worth-while suggestions. Have they made one worth-while suggestion respecting inflation?

Mr. Blenkarn: Yes.

Mr. Flis: About now to reduce interest rates?

Mr. Blenkarn: Yes.

Mr. Flis: About how to bring down the deficit?

Mr. Blenkarn: yes.

Mr. Shields: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member would care to comment on the tricky business behind the curtain.

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, I lose respect for hon. members who do not even know what a point of order is.

We heard from the other side that, yes, they have made concrete suggestions about reducing the deficit, but what do we hear every day in the question period? The expense of carrying out every request they make would drive this country to bankruptcy.

I would like to make another point. Some hon. members have made it already, but I would like to reinforce it. When the House rises, that does not mean all members go on holidays. As the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) reminded us, we have a duty to our constituents. I owe it to my constituents to spend a certain percentage of my time with them. Because of the deliberate delaying tactics we have experienced during the Constitution debate and so forth, I could not do justice to hearing the concerns of my constituents since I would make an appointment and then have to dash back to Ottawa because there was a vote. At least give me some time over the summer break to work in my constituency so that I can hear the concerns of those Canadians and bring the concerns here on October 14.

I feel I have a duty to my family too. There is work around the house to be done. I think we have to do our jobs as fathers and mothers. I think I owe it to my family and to myself, but I owe it to Canada to spend a proportionate amount of time in the House and in my constituency with the people who sent me to this House.

As members of Parliament I think we should be setting an example for other Canadians in our political roles, either on the government side or in the opposition, as well as in our private lives. I do not have statistics to quote, but I would hazard a guess that members of Parliament probably have the highest rate of marriage break-ups. Why? Because if the opposition had its way, it would reduce us human beings to things. When we are reduced to things, we cannot think creatively or constructively. We cannot play our roles as fathers or mothers in our families. We cannot work with our constituents. I for one refuse to be reduced to a thing. I am a human being. I am an elected member of this House of Commons and I refuse to be reduced to a thing. I am a human being and I want to be respected for that.

The hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) who preceded me said that hon. members on his side of the House do not need a vacation. That is true; they do not. They have been on vacation all year. That is why they do not need a vacation.

I mentioned that I respect all individual members in this House. I would also like to pay tribute to and show my respect for the two opposition parties in the House because I lived in a country where there was no official opposition for a full year. There was opposition to government but no official opposition. I think this is what makes the democratic system so strong. I will always hold a very high respect for members who play a constructive role on the opposition side.

However, I think the public would have a greater respect for the two opposition parties if they would show some co-operation and some trust in the government. On Wednesday the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) said, "I do not trust the government." That is recorded in *Hansard* at page 11583. I think hon. members in the official opposition do not trust the government because they have not learned to trust themselves. They have not learned to trust their party. They have not learned to trust their leader and,