

*Government Orders*

able, then we are going to fall into anarchy. We have seen this happen over and over during this Parliament.

This has been, in my years in Parliament, the worst day of Parliament that I can remember.

**An hon. member:** That is right. They are arrogant.

**Mr. Dionne:** The arrogance of that crowd opposite is boundless. Not only if it does not like the rules does it abuse the rules, but it does not even have the good sense to try to change the rules properly.

What has gone on here today is very disturbing to anyone who has any notion of how this institution is to function and protect the fundamental rights of the citizens of this country.

The rights of the citizens of this country were not protected today when business of government was being carried on in this House without a minister present, with sometimes not even a member of the government in the House.

**Mr. McDermid:** Where were you?

**Mr. Dionne:** I was here, Sir.

**Mr. McDermid:** You were not here all the time.

**Mr. Dionne:** Where were you? You must have been wearing invisible clothes.

**An hon. member:** He just snuck in.

**Mr. Dionne:** It is obvious that there is not much point in saying anything to these people over here because they do not have any sensitivity for this institution.

If this institution falls because no one has stood up and spoken for the rights of the members of this Parliament, then every Canadian will have lost and we will have a system of anarchy.

From the Chair on down, we have to guide and guard the rights of the people in this Chamber and we have to ensure that the basic rules of this Chamber are adhered to and are enforced.

**An hon. member:** They are now.

**Mr. Dionne:** Not today they were not.

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James):** Mr. Speaker, I was going to start off by saying that in the less than three years I have been in Parliament, I do not think I have witnessed heretofore the kind of anger I have

witnessed tonight. There is a lot of anger on this side of the House. There is a lot of frustration. We saw the anger just a few moments ago.

I think I know my hon. colleague from Miramichi, and he is a gentleman. Rarely have I seen him raise his voice. Tonight we have seen it. It is a measure of the deep frustration and the deep anger that is felt on this side of the House.

We are dealing with very serious business here. We are dealing with a government that is deliberately gagging the opposition and showing utter contempt for this House and for our democratic institutions and for the people of Canada.

**Mr. Milliken:** Repugnant.

**Mr. Harvard:** Yes, as my colleague from Kingston and Islands says, it is repugnant. What it is doing is repugnant.

I have noticed that we have not had the pleasure or the benefit of any of the government members speaking to the issue.

**Mr. Milliken:** They are ashamed.

**Mr. Harvard:** Are they ashamed of their own measure? Are they ashamed of their own motion? I would have thought they would be proud of this and that they would stand up and support it and speak to it. No, they sit there silent. They say nothing. Absolutely, nothing.

**An hon. member:** Absolutely ashamed of themselves.

**Mr. Harvard:** I really think that is just another form of contempt of this House and of this Parliament.

What are we talking about here? We are talking about a pernicious motion that would allow this government to go back more than 100 years to the first Parliament and resurrect some bill that died in the first or tenth Parliament or twentieth Parliament. Resurrect that bill and just continue on with it at the stage at which it died.

I suppose that the government would say: "Oh, no, no, we would never do that. We would never do anything like that. After all, we have great respect for this institution. We have great respect for democracy."

It has done it. It has never been done in this country before. It has not been done in our Mother of Parliaments. The government feels it can do this. I think it tells us how out of touch this government is with the Canadian public. It is out of touch. All you have to do is read