

Procedure and Organization

day in this house the members of the government have to watch each other in case the troica lowers the boom. The minister will recall that only this afternoon he had to be sharpened up by his house leader.

Mr. Sharp: This is an entertaining speech.

Mr. MacInnis: In reply to the remark of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, may I say that I assume this is the only reason he is sitting in the house this afternoon. He is not sitting here because his conscience tells him to do a good job for the Canadian people. If he feels I am entertaining him here this afternoon I wish he would send over the price of admission. At least he should pay for what he is getting because he is giving nothing in return to the Canadian people in line with the duties connected with his portfolio. He only got that because of the flip he made last spring in favour of the present Prime Minister. I hope the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in sending over a messenger, will not prove himself to be as cheap as I think he is.

This would seem to be the unfortunate attitude of this government. It is headed up by three men. It is unfortunate that the house leader is placed in a position where he cannot think for himself, but is blindly following orders which compel him to allow an unacceptable amendment to be introduced. This supports my earlier remark about a stupid government. Mr. Speaker, I hope I am not wearing out that adjective. The Prime Minister introduced it in the house the other day. If I am not allowed to do so, I will get around to a few others which he used in respect of the Liberals in the not too distant past.

Government supporters would have you believe this proposed rule would streamline parliament and allow for a more efficient parliament. On this, no one is fooled. Backbenchers in the government are not participating now. I repeat that for the benefit of those within hearing. Backbenchers in the government are not participating now, and the more efficient we become the less they will have to do. Members opposite probably do not wish to accept this fact. Perhaps I should support my argument by quoting from the remarks made yesterday by the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher). I shall quote from page 11174 of *Hansard*:

However, there are many new members in our party who do not like sitting around doing what they consider to be nothing.

Well, if we have backbenchers on the government side who are complaining now about

[Mr. MacInnis.]

the fact they are sitting around doing what they consider to be nothing, if parliament is programmed and streamlined to the extent intended, then I do not see how they will be employed usefully in any sense of the word. Of course we can go back to the Prime Minister and quote his reference to the Liberal party as "The spineless herd". Probably another delegation of Liberal wives is necessary to see the little man since the Prime Minister has such an appeal, or is it the office that appeals? After all, take away the office and what is left? Just a 50 year old bachelor or, would you believe 51—a bag of bones and a hank of hair.

Now that the Message has been delivered, I see that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is just as cheap as I assumed he was. It is most unfortunate that Liberals of today cannot follow the dictates of their late spiritual leader, Prime Minister Mackenzie King who said—

An hon. Member: He was speaking here last night.

• (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. MacInnis: I am glad to note there are a few believers. In any event, he said:

The government must be by parliament and through parliament. It must not be carried on by cabinet ministers in their secret chambers.

That is from your spiritual leader. I hope he talks to you again tonight. Let me quote further from the late Prime Minister who said:

The air of Liberalism is to seek a wider freedom for the masses in social, political, religious and industrial life, to restore the control of the people over parliament and to restore the control of parliament over the executive.

Never was this objective more necessary than it is today. The withdrawal of rule 75c might assure the late Right Hon. Mackenzie King that Liberalism is still what he thought it was, then there would be no need for him to turn over in his grave. Surely, the Liberals cannot ignore words of wisdom that come from this source. If they continue to do so I suppose one will have to call upon the words of another Liberal cabinet minister who said, speaking about a Liberal government:

We are fighting for liberty, we are fighting for democracy and parliamentary institutions. Yet most of our activities are in the hands of little potentates, men of no experience, dictators in the field that has been given to them for administration.

Unless the government sees fit to amend its stupid ways, this indictment by a former