

on the cabinet for a number of things, one of which was a summer holiday. They finally won. They fought the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) and the government House leader (Mr. Pinard) into closing the place down for the summer. That is a shame and it is disgusting.

● (0100)

We do not have postal service in this country, inflation is running rampant, energy prices are going up and people are suffering under the detrimental effects of a non-caring government and a cabinet that has hardly been here the last couple of weeks. They have been on holidays already.

**An hon. Member:** What has Jack Austin got on you guys?

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Speaker, listen to hon. members over there. It is now three minutes past one. I get my full 20 minutes but they are calling for the vote now. They are in a real rush to get out of here. I am going to use my full 20 minutes. Let us take a look at the increased cost of energy. Since this government has been in power, it has raised the price of gasoline 13 times. In the province of Ontario it costs around \$1.60 per gallon. I have listened to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) tell me they want another small piece of the pie. That is all they want. Right now, out of \$1.60 per gallon the federal government gets 58 cents which is about 33 per cent. Now the federal government wants more. It is sad that most of the government's 33 per cent take is shipped out of the country to Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Mexico.

**Mr. Smith:** And Brampton.

**Mr. McDermid:** I wish it were shipped to Brampton, we could use it in Brampton. We could use mail delivery in Brampton, too.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McDermid:** Not only mail delivery when the Post Office is supposedly working, but some of those new subdivisions that have not had mail delivery for two years. They deserve it as well. What does the Postmaster General say? He tells people not to worry because when the Post Office becomes a Crown corporation, it will take care of them. I hope he is right because he has been telling that to everyone over here. He has been saying that the Crown corporation will solve all the problems of the Post Office. He has been putting a great deal of pressure on Michael Warren. I hope the Postmaster General is right, although I doubt it.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Do you want to stay next week?

**An hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Brampton-Georgetown has the floor.

### *Summer Recess*

**Mr. McDermid:** We will sit next week. Hon. members opposite are the ones who are closing the place down. You want to stop the work of the House.

I want to get back to the price of energy because I think this government has been hoodwinking the people of Canada. I want the Prime Minister who is not here and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who is not here, to explain to the Canadian people why they want more and more of the energy pie. This government already takes 33 per cent. How much more does the government want?

**An hon. Member:** All of it.

**Mr. McDermid:** That is right.

The Prime Minister likes to call all the backbenchers nobodies. The reason he does that is that he does not give them an opportunity to speak. Nobody can speak in this House. Any time there is an important issue, the Prime Minister invokes closure. I know the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) is as embarrassed as anyone over there by the closures which have been brought in on at least two very important issues. This issue is as important as the Constitution and the energy discussions. What does this cynical government do? It appoints a backbencher to the Senate who has served in this House for a relatively short period of time. Then that cute little cherub from the Prime Minister's office is parachuted into Spadina because he could not get elected in Alberta, the province from where he comes.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** He won't get elected in Spadina either.

**Mr. McDermid:** I tell you now we are going to put the boots to Coutts.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McDermid:** I see them all laughing over there. They think the great annointed from the Prime Minister's office, the laying on of the hands, is going to walk right in. Now I hear leather lungs from Newfoundland hollering. This is bothering them. They know this was a bad move. First, members over there are very upset at the Senate appointment. I see a hundred people over there who deserve it more than the one who got it—maybe not a hundred.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** At least the Liberals will have somebody with sex appeal now.

**Mr. McDermid:** We are going to win Spadina. We have a terrific candidate in the person of Laura Sabia. You can all smirk over there but wait until August 17.

**An hon. Member:** She will finish third.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Coutts will be back here. One of you lucky guys may get him as an assistant.

**An hon. Member:** Maybe even a secretary.