

Procedure and Organization

he would like to participate in a more active and meaningful way in the debates of this house. Does he not realize that once rule 75c is accepted his opportunities to speak will be very much curtailed?

And why does not the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen), who has had great experience in law, not say more about matters like the rehabilitation of criminals, expungement of criminal records, corporal punishment and the like. If he is under restraint now, does he not realize that rule 75c will tighten that restraint? He, too, should take part in debates and he and others like him should resist the adoption of rule 75c.

The government's backbenchers have deafened me with their silence in this debate. They are silent when most matters come before the house and when many matters are referred to committee. I am thinking of the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), who has had wide experience on Toronto city council and who has the respect of the Italian community; I appeal to him to speak up when matters relating to immigration and to the Italian community of Canada come before the house.

• (4:30 p.m.)

These are some of the backbenchers for whom I feel sorry and whom I ask to take an active part. If I may be rather poetic I would say, "On Danson, on Givens, on Hopkins, on Otto" to meet some of these important matters. This problem would never have arisen had we had the present Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith) as the house leader. He is a man of reason, sympathy and compassion. He exercises those talents in his portfolio as Solicitor General. We never would have had this problem with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen) as house leader. When he was house leader he worked well with the other house leaders to formulate timetables which were acceptable to members of the house. The fly in the ointment has been the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald). Some members have said disparagingly that he is "Mac the Gag." I really do not believe he has stooped to that position.

The President of the Privy Council is a representative of the riding next to mine. I might say that it is Rosedale, the upper part of which embraces a great many wealthy people and the lower part of which embraces many poor people. I thought he would be really concerned about putting recreational

[Mr. Gilbert.]

facilities into Moss Park and would be working toward that end. I thought he would be concerned about housing for the people in the south part of his riding who are suffering from the effects of high interest rates and poor housing. I thought he would be interested in some of the unemployment problems which prevail and that he would co-operate with house leaders to adopt 75A and 75B so that we could move on to a discussion of these particular matters, but that has not been so. Probably he has rightfully earned the tag of "Mac the Gag."

We have heard many speeches from members of the opposition. When one heard the moving speech by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), and the speech by the leader of my party, one could not help but be persuaded that 75c has no place in parliamentary democracy in Canada. When one heard the speech of the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander), one could not help but be moved. Here we have a member who in his maiden speech said:

—men should be judged not by the colour of their skin nor by the way they fight, love or sin, nor by the gods they serve or vintage they drink, but by the quality of thoughts they think.

After hearing the hon. member for Hamilton West last night, one appreciates the way he thinks. He is a man of integrity; he is a man who wants to co-operate with members.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Gilbert: His plea seemed to fall on the deaf ears of the backbenchers of the Liberal party who lack the initiative to participate in this debate or take a very active part in their caucus meetings to point out to the President of the Privy Council the error of his ways. We have been fortunate to have a colleague like the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), a man who is knowledgeable and sincere; a man who has brought to the parliament of Canada the dignity it deserves.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Gilbert: To be treated by the Prime Minister in the way he was last Friday does not belittle the hon. member; it belittles the Prime Minister.

I should like to direct my attention in particular to 75A, 75B and 75c. It has been said we need to know our a, b, c's to understand these particular sections. I should like to read section 75A so that we will better understand