

*Procedure and Organization*

need at prices they can afford? Will programming include legislation for genuine consultation with the Métis and Indian people who are being told what is good for them, whether they like it or not? If it includes all these things the government does not need 75c. The opposition will be only too eager to pass such measures.

The people of Canada are alarmed by 75c, and we are alarmed about it. They know that the kind of legislation which will be passed with the full consent and co-operation of the opposition is the kind of legislation to which I have referred, and they wonder why in thunder we have not passed it before now. The reason for the alarm in respect of 75c is that if the government wants 75c it must want it to prevent the kind of legislation which should be brought in to look after people's needs in the years ahead and to stifle the criticism by the opposition.

Is this program that the government is proposing to bring in next year intended to control the high rates of interest in this country? Will it deal with the steadily rising cost of living? Will this program deal with the growing pollution problems of air, soil and water in this country? Will this programming deal with the problems of Canadian control of Canadian industry and its development?

**An hon. Member:** No, never.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** That is the answer.

**An hon. Member:** What about the cost of fudgsicles?

**Mrs. MacInnis:** It will not even deal with the false advertisement in respect of fudgsicles. I worked for two or three months to get this government to make a firm assurance that the weight of as small a thing as a fudgsicle would be as advertised and this relates only to one small item—chocolate bars that children buy.

On the basis of legislation introduced this session the answer to all these questions is a resounding, no. The government has shown no interest whatsoever in such matters. Some of you may smile because you feel you will keep the government in your hands and stifle the criticisms we are trying to make. Things will be different in this parliament after the next election.

People are not happy, and we shall not rest until we find ways and means of getting their needs across to the government in this chamber. There has been enough talk in this house about opposition obstruction. I want to tell

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

you that it is this government which has obstructed every single effort to get action in respect of the urgent needs in this country. Only the government has had the power to bring in legislation dealing with these problems. It has failed to bring in that legislation; that is obstruction of the will of the people.

The people want the government to give top priority to things like jobs, training for jobs, the development of industry, restrictions on the interest rate and the high cost of living, and the provision for housing for people on low incomes and to deal with the wheat problem and all these things. Until the government absolutely had to give money to the western farmers to keep them from sinking into nothingness it did not do anything worthwhile about this problem. Let us have no more talk about opposition obstruction. If the government can now hamstring the opposition by this closure rule they think they will have no need to worry about criticism in the future. They can close their eyes and their ears to public clamour for legislation of the kind we need in this country.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) claims that people feel parliament is becoming less relevant to the problems of today. If parliament is becoming less relevant to those problems in the minds of the people it is because this government has contributed to making it less relevant. It is no wonder that people feel parliament is becoming less relevant after trying in vain to get this government to understand that there are a number of problems that need solving. In spite of this, the government can turn a deaf ear and a blind eye to these needs of the people.

Let me point out that at Christmas time the *Vancouver Sun*, which is the organ of the Liberal party on the west coast, published an editorial pointing out that the government had the good sense to put the then proposed closure rule, 16A, in the deep freeze. It said it would be wrong for the rest of us to think that the government was putting this rule through to hobble parliament. But it added that the Prime Minister had made a mistake. The editorial went on to state:

The plan of wholesale advance closure inherent in rule 16A was seen on examination to be intolerable. He [The Prime Minister] had not realized how sensitive parliament and people are to the rights of this great institution.

The Prime Minister, inexperienced as he was, was surely entitled to a mistake. But when only six months later we see the same mistake coming around again we are entitled