

Procedure and Organization

Mr. Nowlan: There has been too much co-operation. We have spoiled them.

Mr. Crouse: Some hon. members who support the government have already referred to the rules debate as a filibuster. If they want to read about real filibusters I suggest they read some of the drivel that was put on the record during the years 1957 to 1962 by Mr. Pearson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Chevrier and Mr. Pickersgill. If wishing could come true, the men of Apollo 11 would not be the first men on the moon, because I sat here many times and wished these four men would leave this house for another place. In one way or another I suppose my wish has come true.

Let me review the record in that respect. The second session of the 24th parliament in 1959 opened on January 15 and prorogued on July 18 of that year. The third session of the 24th parliament opened on January 14, 1960, and prorogued on August 10 of that year. The fourth session of the 24th parliament opened on November 17, 1960, and did not prorogue until September 29, 1961. These were filibusters carried on by four men. If hon. members look at the record they will see that at one time one of these men filled seven pages of the *Hansard* Index, while the other three filled six. Heaven only knows how many thousands of words those four men put on the record during that time.

• (4:20 p.m.)

The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) and the government have received outstanding co-operation during this session from the opposition in regard to the passage of their legislative program. To substantiate that statement all one has to do is to look at the record. According to my recollection only two of our debates were lengthy. First of all, there was the omnibus bill amending the Criminal Code. Quite naturally this measure took considerable time since many members were opposed, as I was, to the clauses dealing with abortion and homosexuality. These clauses went to the very basis of moral behaviour and to the very roots of our Christian beliefs. Since it was the government that introduced this kind of legislation to the house, I do not believe that this self same government should have had the right to limit the views of any member who tried to express his objections and the objections of his constituents to the legislation.

The second piece of legislation that took some time was the official languages bill. However, it was also an important piece of

[Mr. Crouse.]

legislation, the implementation of which will have far reaching effects throughout the length and breadth of the country. Surely the President of the Privy Council is not going to state that the rights of members to express their opinions on these matters, in what to date has been a free parliament, should have been curtailed.

Quite frankly, if the government have important legislation that they wish to implement, why do they not bring it forward at this time? As I have just pointed out, the house has sat through the summer on other occasions. I would point out that it was not the Official Opposition that suggested that the Commons adjourn on June 27; this was the cut-off date that was set by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). We of the Official Opposition agreed to sit extra hours, meeting in this chamber at ten o'clock in the morning, in order to facilitate the passage of government legislation.

It is the bull headed stupidity of the present government in arranging their own program that has brought us to the present situation. Since we will never agree to the acceptance of 75c. I suggest to the President of the Privy Council that he withdraw it. And since most of the summer is now over, let him bring on any important legislation that the government have so we may deal with it now. The Prime Minister has called our fight to protect the rights of parliament a stupid filibuster. He has already prejudged 80 per cent of members' questions as sheer hypocrisy and therefore the room that is left to manoeuvre in this parliament is becoming limited.

We as members will insist on our right to be heard. If the Prime Minister and his cabinet are bored with parliament, if it is interfering with their vacation or entertainment plans, or if parliament no longer interests them, then they should at least have the courage and decency to stand in their place and to tell their story to the people who elected them.

Mr. Kaplan: It is your people who are having the vacation.

Mr. Crouse: It is now evident that rule 75c is, on second thought, no longer acceptable to the government or to the President of the Privy Council. The interjection by the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Kaplan) is unworthy of comment, since it was the members of his party who were counted out in the house for non-attendance last Thursday.