

*Freedom of Information*

● (2142)

We need freedom of information legislation for more than the reason commonly given, namely, that people are entitled to information gathered by public servants at public expense. That in itself is not sufficient reason, in my mind, to justify the complications which we may create as a result of such a bill. The real reason lies behind the basic theory and purpose of democratic government. Democracy thrives on the competition of ideas, argument, criticism and visions of the future. It depends not only on the electoral and parliamentary competition of political parties, but on the contribution of other voices in society acting from altruistic or selfish motives. As a parliamentary democracy we encourage organized probing of government actions through the formal structures of the House of Commons. As a pluralistic society we believe in the value of those organizations referred to as pressure groups.

What I am saying to my colleagues in the House tonight, and I say it earnestly and strongly, is that if this parliament is to function, if groups in society are to function, if the people of the country are to be able to judge in a knowledgeable way, then some of the tools of power must be shared. One of the great tools of power is not only the ability to probe all the structures within this place, but also to have the knowledge by which that probing, that investigation, that calling to account of a government, can be done effectively based on information and knowledge rather than instinct.

If the government are prepared to move in that direction tonight, then they will not only have done themselves and this parliament a service, but for once we will be able to say to them that perhaps they made the country a little better because of the decision that was made here. I invite them to share in the concept of openness of government and support our motion tonight.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. It being 9.45 p.m., it is my duty, pursuant to section (10) of Standing Order 58(10), to interrupt the proceedings and to put forth with every question necessary to dispose of the motion, main estimates, and for the passage of all stages of the bill based thereon.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** All those in favour will please say ye.

**Some hon. Members:** Ye.

[Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton).]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** In my opinion the nays have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Clark) which was negated on the following division:

● (2152)

*(Division No. 54)*

## YEAS

## Messrs.

Alexander	Friesen	Mazankowski
Alkenbrack	Gillies	McCain
Andre	Graffey	McKenzie
(Calgary Centre)	Halliday	McKinley
Baker	Hees	McKinnon
(Grenville-Carleton)	Hnatyshyn	Mitges
Baldwin	Hogan	Munro
Beatty	Huntington	(Esquimalt-Saanich)
Benjamin	Jarvis	Murta
Brewin	Johnston	Neil
Brisco	Kempling	Oberle
Caouette	Knowles	Paproski
(Villeneuve)	(Winnipeg	Patterson
Clark	North Centre)	Peters
(Rocky Mountain)	Knowles	Pigott (Mrs.)
Clarke	(Norfolk-Haldimand)	Ritchie
(Vancouver Quadra)	Lambert	Roche
Crouse	(Edmonton West)	Rodriguez
Dionne	Lawrence	Saltsman
(Kamouraska)	Leggatt	Stanfield
Douglas	MacDonald (Miss)	Stevens
(Nanaimo-Cowichan-	(Kingston and the	Towers
The Islands)	Islands)	Whittaker
Elzinga	Masniuk	Wise—58
Firth		

## NAYS

## Messrs.

Abbott	Caron	Gendron
Andras	Clermont	Gillespie
(Port Arthur)	Collenette	Goyer
Andres	Comtois	Gray
(Lincoln)	Corbin	Guilbault
Appolloni (Mrs.)	Corriveau	Harquail
Baker	Côté	Herbert
(Gander-Twillingate)	Cullen	Holt (Mrs.)
Basford	Danson	Hopkins
Béchar	Daudlin	Horner
Bégin (Miss)	Dawson	Isabelle
Blais	De Bané	Jamieson
Blaker	Demers	Lachance
Blouin	Dionne	Lajoie
Boulanger	(Northumberland-	Lalonde
Breau	Miramichi)	Lamontagne
Bussièeres	Douglas	Landers
Caccia	(Bruce-Grey)	Lang
Cafik	Duclos	Langlois
Campagnolo (Mrs.)	Dupras	Laniel
Campbell (Miss)	Duquet	Lapointe
(South Western Nova)	Ethier	Leblanc
Campbell	Fleming	(Laurier)
(LaSalle-Énard-Côte	Gauthier	LeBlanc
Saint-Paul)	(Ottawa-Vanier)	(Westmorland-Kent)