

S.O. 21

Cabinet Ministers are treated like children. They are afraid of officials in Trudeau's office. Too much power rests with non-elected officials and advisers in Trudeau's office. The Government operates on cynicism, ballyhoo and manipulation.

The six and five program is run by non-elected officials and not by Ministers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I bring to the attention of the Hon. Member that reference to the Prime Minister should be by his title. That is the usual courtesy in this House.

Mr. McDermid: I was quoting from the Toronto *Star*, Mr. Speaker.

No wonder this Government is in trouble. Ministers get their marching orders from Jim Coutts, Keith Davey, and Tom Axworthy.

The Liberal defence to all these accusations is, "It's just sour grapes; the Hon. Member for York West is just mad because he was dropped from Cabinet". I like to think that it is a Liberal who finally decided to tell the truth. How refreshing, Mr. Speaker. It is fitting that these revelations be made available on the last day of the longest session in Canada's history. I call on the Government to let Canadians have a fresh start, forget the Throne Speech, and call an election. It would be the finest Christmas present—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired. The Hon. Member for Hamilton-Wentworth.

* * *

THE ADMINISTRATION

DESCRIPTION ATTRIBUTED TO MEMBER FOR YORK WEST

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, the Liberals are dead if they stay the way they are. People do not look at them as an honest, sincere bunch. Cabinet Ministers are fearful of the Prime Minister's Office. "Ministers are treated like children and are running off and watching their backs at all times." "Too much power rests with non-elected officials and advisers in the Prime Minister's Office". "The Government operates on cynicism and ballyhoo and manipulations." That, Mr. Speaker, was a Liberal Member of Parliament tearing great strips off his own hierarchy.

Today I get the chance, Mr. Speaker, to do something you do not often hear coming from this side. I want to congratulate the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Fleming) warmly for stating the obvious. Mind you, it has taken 15 years, including 591 sitting days in this current session of Parliament, for the message to sink in, but the Member for York West has publicly confirmed what we on this side have maintained for years; this Liberal Government is run from the Prime Minister's Office, not by its elected representatives. And it has taken a former Liberal Cabinet Minister to declare it. But running off and watching their backs at all times not only applies to his former colleagues in Cabinet. Most Liberals over there will be performing similar retreats at the polls next year. They should thank the Hon. Member for York West for reminding them that, after the next election, we Progressive Conservatives will be operating a true parliamentary democracy—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

● (1410)

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

In the Senate chamber, the Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill C-172, an Act to amend the Labour Adjustment Benefits Act and to authorize certain payments in relation thereto.—Chapter No. 169

Bill C-96, an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act—Chapter 170

Bill C-171, an Act to amend the Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act.—Chapter No. 171

Bill C-170, an Act to authorize investment in and the provision of financial assistance to the Atlantic Fisheries for the purpose of restructuring fishery enterprises.—Chapter 172

Bill C-173, Appropriation Act No. 3, 1983-84.—Chapter 173

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

After which the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the first session of the Thirty-Second Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I have the honour today of closing the longest and most productive session in the history of the Canadian Parliament. During the three and a half year period in which you have been sitting more than 200 pieces of legislation have been introduced and over 150 of these have been proclaimed into law.

This session has been remarkable not only for the number of bills passed, but for the magnitude of their impact. The Government recognized that those who wait for unanimity never act, and that those who do not act are engulfed by the wave of events of a rapidly changing world. Accordingly, the Government launched a series of bold initiatives, any one of which would have been sufficient to make this session of Parliament an exceptional one. Four in particular have transformed Canada.

Following the Quebec referendum, the Government initiated the process of federal renewal which it promised would ensue from a rejection of sovereignty association, patriating the Canadian Constitution with an amending formula and an entrenched Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A National Energy Program is in force providing a comprehensive set of measures designed to achieve security of supply, greater Canadian ownership and fairness to the consumer. The federal Government's 6&5 program established a framework for the cooperative national effort which has enabled Canada to realize a dramatic reduction in inflation. And the new Western Grain Transportation Act will replace the outdated Crow's Nest Pass freight rate with a more fair and equitable set of rates, thus completing the necessary groundwork for a major expansion of western rail capacity during the balance of the decade.

Meeting the Challenges of World Recession

These four achievements represent the highlights of the Parliamentary session which now is coming to an end; they have been attained in the midst of one of the most turbulent periods which Canada has experienced outside of wartime. The past three and a half years have been marked by global recession, by unstable international petroleum markets, by increased levels of East-West tension, and by the displacement of millions of people around the planet by war, hunger and economic deprivation.

The Canadian response to these troubled times has been, not to retrench, but to meet these greater challenges through a more effective mobilization of our