

Procedure and Organization

government can do. Give us a chance to have something to say about what the government intends to do. If members of the government would bring in legislation to cope with the cost of living and inflation and show they are prepared to act, we would be anxious to help them tackle these problems. We would not necessarily agree with them. We would have alternatives to present. Any opposition worth its salt would have some alternatives to present. But at least let them bring in something. Instead of doing this, they indicate their fear and inability to deal with the problems of this country. How worried they are! They must be worried to resort to rule changes, something which takes up the time and effort of the members of this chamber unnecessarily. Mr. Speaker, where the devil have government members been for the last twelve months?

There is something else I should like to say to my parliamentary colleagues in the Liberal government. In a parliamentary democracy nobody wins them all. Some day they will be in opposition. They may feel, Mr. Speaker, that I will not live long enough to see that day. That does not matter. Some day they will be in opposition. Last week end I spent some time reading *Hansard* from 1958 to 1962. It is interesting to read what the Liberal speakers had to say then. When proposals were brought in for a rule change and the majority Conservative government threatened to impose closure, you should have heard those Liberal speakers. They forget that in a democracy nobody, no matter how right he may think he is, wins them all. I hope those on the government side who are younger, like myself, will recall, several years hence when they are in opposition, what they are doing now.

May I also ask members to think about what would happen in respect of 75c in a minority government situation. This situation can occur as a result of any election. What kind of situation would be we in with a minority government and rule 75c? Both the government and the opposition would be faced with terrible choices. If the rule were enforced, the government would be defeated. A minority government could use the rule for the worst purpose. I should like to invite members of this house to think about that. Of course, they could seek the co-operation of the opposition to avoid having to implement 75c, and to that extent there would be an emasculated government and an emasculated parliament. I should like to invite members of the house to think about that as well. I submit this is another reason no government, no

party, and no parliament even with some very good evidence should ever want to have a rule of this nature. When a parliament misbehaves, and particularly when an opposition misbehaves—I mean that in the worst sense of the word—in the final analysis those who will decide the issue will be the people with the X's. This government has its majority and if it brings in legislation which this opposition obstructs, then the government has the final choice to make and the people will decide with their X's.

The people have the final decision and I submit that is another reason no self-respecting democratic party, democratic government or democratic parliament would even countenance this kind of rule. I do not often quote someone who is living, but I should like to quote from a speech of a member of this house who all members will agree, even though they may disagree with his political philosophy, represents what is best in Canada's parliament. I refer to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) who has made many speeches outside this chamber which were not necessarily mailed to his constituents about the rights of members of parliament and the responsibilities of oppositions. He has made these speeches often, particularly since 1956. The hon. member has spoken to many organizations, but since I am running out of time I will not quote his remarks but will leave that to one of my colleagues.

• (8:20 p.m.)

May I close by saying, as a new member, to government members who are also new, you cannot do this; you must not do this and you do not need it. Surely, you have sufficient evidence of co-operation from opposition parties to assure you that whatever proposals the government may bring forward, even if the opposition does not agree with them, they will be dealt with well and competently. Until such time as you have irrefutable evidence that the opposition in this house is obstructing, you should not bring in 75c. Only at that time would I, for one, sympathize with you.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak, for a few moments only as I should not like to hold up proceedings, on the matter now under study.

I will speak this evening in support of the amendment of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) and especially on proposed Standing Order 75A and B which