

Procedure and Organization

When a bill is brought before the house, it becomes almost the sole responsibility of the government house leader. It falls to him to introduce a priority bill or one which is more important than another. And that is what the government has failed to do in the past. The government has failed to introduce the most urgent bills, the most important ones to deal, for instance, with Canada's economic problems.

We have been fighting for three weeks over section 75c while the number of unemployed is increasing in Canada, while the wheat problem has yet to be solved in the West even if \$250 million have been promised and while the problem of milk production has not yet been solved in eastern Canada. So, our economic problems are not settled, but bills are being introduced so that the members of the house will spend four or five weeks discussing them.

Mr. Speaker, the President of the Privy Council is the one responsible for this situation.

• (9:10 p.m.)

As for the government bills, the house leader decides in the last resort the course to be taken. Indeed, he decides the period of time allotted for each stage of the debate and the putting through of closure, as he did this evening. He is asking hon. members to pass a provision to put through permanent closure or other means to shorten the debates and to bring matters to a successful issue.

The entire behaviour of the government, especially to the extent where it concerns the internal life of the house and the bills which are proposed, is centered on the person of the house leader. Moreover, when progress in the house is slow, the responsibility lies in the first place with the present President of the Privy Council.

Mr. Speaker, the Ralliement Cr ditiste will continue to fight, not for partisan purposes, but in order to give Canadian citizens the maximum results they expect from the administration of national affairs.

We will keep on calling for necessary economic reforms. The Canadian people do not need rule 75c but rather the implementation of effective and urgent measures which will bring results for the entire population. It is for this reason that Canadians elect a government and representatives to the Canadian Parliament. It is not only to give the government the exclusive right of proposing

[Mr. Caouette.]

motions, legislation or rules in order to annoy everyone instead of clarifying the situation.

The Prime Minister is well aware that if he proposed to the house some workable economic reform, such reforms would be agreed to by the house and would attract public opinion. What is the use of going to western or eastern Canada and telling the people: We do not have any money. This is not a solution to the economic problems or today.

If the Prime Minister can find the billions of dollars needed to co-operate in all kinds of international programs aimed at assisting other countries, I think the government's first duty is to run the nation's business as the people expect it to.

Mr. Speaker, our position has been clearly set out in this connection. In fact, my colleagues rose in turn and stated the position of the Ralliement Cr ditiste with respect to rule 75c which amounts more or less to a stab in the back of Canadian democracy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[English]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) speaking a few minutes ago I thought of Jonah in the whale. It was dark inside there for Jonah and the whale had swallowed quite a mouthful. As I listened to the Prime Minister's facetious sophistry about the minority wanting to frustrate the majority in the debating of legislation, I thought the Prime Minister felt a little sick and I was on the point of sending him over some Alka Seltzer.

Mr. Woolliams: If the Prime Minister can't take the heat he should get out of the kitchen.

Mr. Nowlan: The Prime Minister is now leaving the chamber. I did not realize that his stomach was so upset that he would have to leave the chamber when I rose to speak. Perhaps I ought to take some Tums to help my tummy, because as I listened I began to feel sick myself. I was upset that the principles of the just society had been subverted within one year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Nowlan: It is no wonder that hon. members opposite were caught out of their seats not long ago. As you may remember, there were not enough government members present to constitute a quorum of 20 members. Why was that, Mr. Speaker? They are following the Prime Minister's example; since