

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*INDIAN AFFAIRS—YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.—
REGULATIONS IN AKAITCHO HALL

respect of the various bills introduced by the government.

A while ago, he was referring to another bill that he considered to be abominable and inconceivable. I am still looking for some coherence from that party. Of course the government will most probably bring some emendations, but to claim that the solution may be found at a moment's notice is an entirely different matter. I do not believe that any member in this house has found the magic wand and it is a foregone conclusion that is will not be found by the Ralliement créditiste.

Some hon. Members: We want an answer.

Mr. Loiselle: Well, if you want an answer, let me have my say and I shall try to give you that answer.

First of all, one must see things clearly. You are elected by the people and your job is not to constantly attack and criticize the government, to tell them what to do and what not to do.

What are you suggesting as an alternate solution?

Since the beginning, you have done nothing else but criticize. Certainly no Créditiste government will correct the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind the parliamentary secretary to direct his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Loiselle: You are perfectly right, Mr. Speaker, but when hearing certain things one sometimes lets one self be carried away. That is what happened to me.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I can try not to lose my temper over the unkind remarks of the member for Compton, I would like to point out to him that with regard to unemployment, hiring has increased. In July last, there were 5,533,000 positions and in January—when unemployment is usually worse—there were all the same 7,753,000 positions.

The rate of unemployment in January is still lower than in December. Indeed, it went down from 4.8 in December to 4.3 in January. Mr. Speaker, from January 1967 to January 1968, there were in Canada some 324,000 new positions. I do not think that any one can say that conditions are deteriorating, since within a year, they—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The time allotted to the hon. member has expired.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, the question which I have asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) about Akaitcho Hall arose out of the fact that never since I first read Dickens have I known of a school residence where the conditions were as outrageous as they are in this residence under the direction and the authority of the minister and his department. The people in this residence are treated in a way which is puritanical, oppressive, insulting and degrading. I cannot speak indignantly enough about this situation.

You are dealing, Mr. Speaker, not with children you are dealing with 200 people the average age of whom is 18½ years, ranging from 14 to 24. The hall was originally built to accommodate 96. It now accommodates about 200 and instead of two to a room you have four to a room, just about as serious overcrowding as you can have in a school residence. These young adults are treated like children. They cannot leave the building without obtaining a pass, and when they return they have to hand in their pass. Their language is censored. They are told they must not chew gum in the hall. We are dealing with grown people. The type of clothing they wear is regulated. In fact, if the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) wore an ascot and sandals and appeared at a cultural hall, he would be dismissed from the school. They cannot visit their friends in Yellowknife without special leave or enter any home in Yellowknife without special leave from the superintendent or one of the supervisors. They cannot have visitors without special permission. Riding in cars or taxis on the streets is prohibited. If someone comes to Yellowknife to stay at the school that person's car must remain parked for the entire duration of the visit. The behaviour of these young adults with the opposite sex is governed by a degrading, insulting and childish regulation. I have a copy of the regulation before me, and I shall read it:

Young people of opposite sex are naturally attracted to one another. There is no intention on the part of staff members to destroy such friendships. However, such friendships must be kept strictly controlled in conduct.

What is the conduct that is permitted? I shall read further:

Specifically, the holding of hands on walking trips to town and perhaps occasionally in the hall will not be objected to, but any personal contact other than this is not acceptable.