

Government Orders

No wonder, when they see that the people who represent them are either on one side where they just vote like trained seals for anything the Prime Minister calls for, or are on this side where we are more and more gagged and cannot speak out against it to tell the public what is happening and to warn it of what is down the road.

The food banks are growing with people who cannot feed their children properly. Some people cannot find a decent place to live in our big cities. Four hundred thousand jobs have been lost as a result of the trade deal and the recession. The recession was made worse in Canada by the government's high tax policy, which was not to keep inflation down. Inflation was already down. The high interest policy and the high tax policy were to make sure that Canadian goods would not compete in the U.S. market and thus make the U.S. partners unhappy.

This makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. The working people in Canada, which forms the huge majority of the Canadian population, are not going to stand for it indefinitely.

Last summer a small handful of Indians got fed up with delays, and delays, and delays for 200 or 300 years in their land claims. The government turned out 4,000 Canadian troops against them. What will happen this summer? A month ago, the workers at Caterpillar Tractor in Brampton occupied the plant; a sit-in, in order to demand a better settlement than they had got from a company which was making high profits in Brampton but had decided to close down. Because of the free trade deal it was profitable to move to Alabama where unions are practically prohibited by law.

The Rae government of Ontario negotiated that situation to a peaceful conclusion. There was no violence at Caterpillar Tractor thanks to Bob Mackenzie, the Minister of Labour in the NDP government.

It does not change the situation, which is growing worse and worse for working people in Canada. It does not change the situation in which they see that it is no longer possible for them to express their will through elections which are perverted by third party advertising and through a House where the opposition is being gagged.

If this government continues to follow this course, it will build up the conviction in the people of Canada that they cannot do what they need to do for themselves through Parliament. They will have to use other means. That will be a sad and painful day for Canada. The responsibility for it rests on the people across the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I have been in this place now for some 13 years. I have seen good days and I have seen bad days in the House of Commons. I have never seen a worse day than today. Unless we smarten up we are going to destroy our own institutions.

• (1910)

The government should be the custodian of Parliament and the opposition should be its watchdog. Today, this Parliament was treated by the Government of Canada in absolute and total contempt.

For hours this afternoon there was no minister of the Crown in this House. I am glad the Minister of Justice is here to hear what I am saying because she should be the one most concerned about how the laws of this country are promulgated.

Mr. Della Noce: Spit it out, spit it out.

Mr. Dionne: If you have something to say, Mister, get up and say it.

Maybe we need another Cromwell around here for a little while to clean out some of these people who have no respect for the democratic process.

Mr. Della Noce: We let you speak. That is democratic.

Mr. Dionne: You let me speak? I thought I had a right to speak in this place. I thought I had a right to speak anywhere in this country. You let me speak? You are damned right you let me speak, because you cannot stop me. If you want to try, come across here right now.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Dionne: What we have seen today in this House should never be seen in this House. It is an absolute disgrace and it falls squarely on the so-called government of this country.

If we go on like this, bunching bills together, having one or two members of the government party sitting in this Chamber with no ministers here, no one account-