

Procedure and Organization

Therefore, the rules can be effective only if they are established by agreement among all parties in the house. As an example of what can happen when there is no agreement, government members need only look at the record of events as they occurred in this chamber since June 27, the day on which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) stated parliament would adjourn. If he were to look at the record, even a man as bull-headed as the President of the Privy Council would get the picture.

Just what is happening at the present time? The Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, to which the matter of time allocation had been referred, worked with all parties to formulate 75A and 75B which would provide for an allocation of time for government legislation on the basis of consensus and agreement. But this was too orderly for the President of the Privy Council. Since we were nearing the Prime Minister's cut-off date for this session, he rammed 75c through the committee, supported only by government members. Then he sought to bulldoze it through this house, not through discussion of the committee report but by introducing a government motion.

Why did the President of the Privy Council follow this course? I submit that he made a mistake when he drew up 75c and had it incorporated in the committee report. Having noticed this mistake, he wanted to make a few minor changes to the report of the committee, changes which are so slight that you must read very closely the committee report and the minister's motion in order to detect the differences; but changes, nevertheless, which would make Mac the Muzzler the all-powerful czar of this chamber. After the shameful display on the part of the Prime Minister in this chamber on Friday, July 11, I can never agree, and my party will never willingly agree, to the implementation of 75c or to the placing of this kind of power in the hands of the present government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Crouse: The Prime Minister has by his words and actions lowered the dignity of the high office to which he was elected. He has shown contempt for this chamber and its elected members by his arrogant, childish, petulant and intolerant remarks.

Why is the government following this course? We have heard a number of speakers on the government side of the house say they need 75c so they can plan and program their

legislation. What arrogant nonsense; what gall! Rotten wood cannot be carved, neither can it be glued nor nailed. We who live on the east coast know that you cannot build the hull of a ship with rotten or faulty materials. You cannot make a co-operative and productive House of Commons, our ship of state, with rotten or faulty rules. This government can get through a substantial legislative program only with the co-operation of the house based on an allocation of time which has been achieved by agreement among all parties in the house.

If the opposition does not co-operate, whether or not 75c is in effect the government cannot hope to get through as much legislation next session as it did in the first session of the 28th parliament. I am not threatening the government when I say this. All I ask hon. gentlemen who sit to the right of the Speaker to do is consider what is happening in the Post Office Department. Your Post Office Department has had rules laid down by the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans), and they are working to rule.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is only one rule I would remind the hon. member of, and it is that he should always address the Chair.

Mr. Crouse: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it very interesting when government supporters complain about the length of debate in this session, because there is nothing that indicates more clearly their lack of knowledge about past events here. I am not implying that I am an old, experienced member, but I was first elected to this chamber on June 10, 1957. This represents six federal elections and quite a number of sessions, starting with the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent and the Liberal party sitting on the opposition side of the house.

Mr. Bell: He was a great Liberal.

Mr. Crouse: It takes me through the progressive years under the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), through the uncertain years—these are not my views but those of former cabinet members who have written books on the subject—under Mr. Pearson, to the year under the Prime Minister. In all the sessions which I have attended, no government has received more co-operation in the passing of its legislative program than the present government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.