

Then he went on to point out that the House of Commons should not be a sort of rubber stamp for what the ministry might choose to do.

We can only ask for the opportunity of bringing these matters to the attention of the house and the country, not at the end of January or in February but now. We want the opportunity to discuss the position of the veterans, for one thing, including the psychopathic cases across this country who are being denied pensions. We can only bring that out this year, and then only if we are given the opportunity to debate the matter on the speech from the throne.

I make this appeal to the government. Have you all become dictator-minded? Have you all achieved the position where you believe you can rule and dominate the house without regard to the people? I refer you to a speech made by Mr. Churchill in the British house on November 11, 1947, in which he asked the government of Britain to give rights to parliament; not to derogate from those rights that have prevailed traditionally over the years; not to continue to diminish the right of the individual to place his views before parliament. In this country a pattern is developing—legislation denying the right of appeal to the courts; the rights of the individual interfered with by boards and controls, and now the right of the private member denied to place these matters before the house and the country.

Mr. CLAXTON: We are discussing a motion to designate the business of the house, and I submit the remarks of my hon. friend are out of order.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I notice that other hon. gentlemen across the way are silent. My hon. friend is not one of the offenders, but some of those in the front benches are being fairly quiet. In his remarks Mr. Churchill referred to a right hon. gentleman, and I think how applicable these words are in this house:

The right hon. gentleman has an obvious, unconcealable, well known relish for petty dictatorship. He has many good qualities, but he should always be on guard against his propensity and love to eat and mouse the people from morning until night.

I do not refer to the Prime Minister; the identification is clear without any elucidation.

Mr. J. A. ROSS (Souris): Mr. Speaker, as a private member I want to voice my objection to the proposed procedure. I want to tell you that as a result of orders in council and regulations passed by this government

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

many veterans throughout this country are being put out of business, while others are becoming unemployed.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already called the attention of hon. members to the motion before the house. Again I would ask them to keep their remarks relevant to that motion.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): As I understand it this motion expresses the desire of the government to ration our time, so that probably we will have today during which to debate this first motion; then this debate will be adjourned until some time next winter, and the second motion will be adopted. That means this debate will not be resumed for some months. I do not want to repeat what has been said already about the prerogative of parliament and the prerogative of the executive council, but the people who are facing such hardships in Canada today, many of whom were promised so much, will not have a chance to have their grievances reviewed by their own representatives in this parliament. That is what this procedure will mean, and as an elected member of this house I strenuously object. I have never known a time in the history of Canada when the people were so much disturbed about the future. For example, I think of the disturbing position in which those engaged in agriculture from one end of this country to the other now find themselves, and I think of the effect that it is going to have on this country within the next few months if something is not done to clear up these matters. It ill behooves this government, so long after the termination of the war, to come to this house and try to throttle the elected representatives of the people, as they are proposing to do to-day, so that we may not air the grievances which are rampant throughout the country.

I want to make very clear why I am objecting to this procedure today. I know I am only one of the members of this house, but I am sure the mail of every hon. member has been burdened with severe criticism of this government, coming from people in all walks of life. Now we are to be refused a chance to bring up those grievances, though many of them concern veterans who made it possible for us to meet here in a free parliament. They are being put out of business; they are becoming unemployed in large numbers. I am not going to take more time, but I oppose as strongly as possible the suggestion of the Prime Minister and the government in this connection.