

*Procedure and Organization*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member should address the Chair.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Since the hon. member spoke about me, I would like—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) has the floor.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to rise to a point of order since the hon. member referred to me. I ask him respectfully, through you Mr. Speaker, to observe some of the rules of debate in this house.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** We all remember that the Solicitor General used to be house leader, but he exhibited such a lack of knowledge of the rules he was demoted from that position.

One thing that has been proven today, apart from the indication of insincerity on the part of the government and fascist tendencies on the part of the Prime Minister, apart from the indication that the Prime Minister and the government have somewhat less respect now for parliament than they had even a year ago, is that it is not possible any longer to trust the President of the Privy Council.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** It has been proven that it is also not possible to trust the Prime Minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** It has been proven that it is not possible to trust members of the cabinet who are elastic enough in their principles to support a closure motion to stifle debate. Events today prove that the government reeks of political turpitude and would sacrifice any idea to impose its will upon parliament. It proved that the government is not content simply and only to control its servile backbenchers, that the Prime Minister is not happy enough simply to have a fawning and toadying group of followers. He now wants to take away any independence the opposition members may have and restrict the tenor of debate. He knows that he can call upon his minions to vote in any way in which he tells them. He asks himself: What do we need debate for if we have the assuredness of a

vote? With the Prime Minister's queer approach to politics, it seems to me that a long time will elapse before we can develop again the spirit of friendliness and co-operation that is so necessary in a democracy.

By being arrogant and unfeeling, the Prime Minister has done more today to harm parliamentary democracy than even Louis St. Laurent did. By applying closure during the pipe line debate the Liberals were simply selling out part of our economy; today, they are selling our parliamentary freedom.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Let me say in closing that if the Liberals want to operate parliament by the rules of the jungle, then the only course open to us is to try to accommodate them.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I am dismayed by the events which have taken place today.

I can remember that, some years ago, while I was listening quietly to the radio and reading the papers—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Some hon. members are preventing the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) from being heard. He is speaking from the other end of the chamber. I think his speech is as important as the others, and the Chair should be given an opportunity to hear it.

● (9:00 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, a few years ago, while quietly listening to the radio to hear about the proceedings of the parliament of my country, or quietly reading the newspapers to find out what was happening in the House of Commons, I learned that after a few days discussion, a motion for closure had been passed. At that time, I did not expect that in 1969, I would be here as a member to witness such an event repeat itself.

I had thought, during the last week, after listening to the very serious speeches that have been made, that we would have come to an agreement of some kind, especially after listening religiously to the speech made by