

Procedure and Organization

part of the just society, and participatory democracy.

• (8:30 p.m.)

Have you ever seen such a shambles as the presentation of the Transport Committee report? The most important part was omitted, the part that had to do with the "Newfie Bullet". Where did that recommendation go? I do not want to say anyone was playing hanky-panky in the standing committee. Heavens no! That is a fault we on this side recognize.

Then we come to rule 16A. I will not go over that. Notice the pattern, Mr. Speaker. What about the general disrespect of the opposition? It is becoming increasingly worse. Why? That is what I want to know. Here is an opportunity for some intelligent Liberal backbencher to stand up and tell me why.

What about instructions to government members on standing committees? Legislation is supposed to go to a committee, be discussed and come back in the same state. Those are not my words, Mr. Speaker. Those are the words of the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto). The great Canadian phrase, untouched by human hands, is applicable. I believe him because I do not think that hon. member would be quoted in the newspapers of this country and face possibility of being checked by his government for telling lies. I believe him.

Mr. Bell: He is very honourable, for a Liberal!

Mr. Alexander: What about the pattern? A report that was presented by the chairman of the rules committee was abrogated by that brilliant pussy-footer, the government house leader. He attempted with all sincerity and viciousness, to abrogate that report.

An hon. Member: Vicious sincerity?

Mr. Alexander: I am not really so worried about the chairman as about what he did. He uttered disrespect for a standing committee that was formed by parliament. He said parliament does not count, it is nonsense. This attitude was discussed here to such an extent that the government house leader said, I am sorry; I was wrong. It is a terrible day when he has to say he is wrong, and it is a rare day.

To continue with the pattern, Mr. Speaker, we now have rule 75c, the ultimate in demagoguery! It appears that the philosophy of this government is power for power's sake at

[Mr. Alexander.]

any cost, even if they have to cut the throat of the opposition. Apparently that is allowed in the new politics on the other side of the house. We cannot and will not accept that philosophy. We are prepared to fight this week, next week, the following week—

An hon. Member: Merry Christmas!

Mr. Alexander: As the hon. member to my left has said, Merry Christmas to you and a Happy New Year!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Alexander: Yes indeed, order your Christmas turkey now and get your Christmas shopping done because I tell you we are here to stay!

I must give this great city of Ottawa a plug. I usually talk about Hamilton, but something tells me that September in Ottawa can be very exciting. There is the green belt, the Arts Centre and all the urban renewal that is going on here. I am sorry I cannot get to Hamilton. However, I am still optimistic.

As the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) stated, we have no intention of caving in; we can go on indefinitely. The Leader of the Opposition is a very responsible person. He does not make the statements I do. Do not think that we on this side are playing games or hanky-panky. Our leader has said we can go on indefinitely.

Speaking on behalf of many opposition members, if not all, we welcome such involvement, Mr. Speaker. We have to fight. We have to fight to hang on. We have to fight to protect our role as parliamentarians and, in particular, as opposition members. For a while I was a little concerned about whether this message that we were attempting to project was being received across the country, and whether those who sent us here would understand what we have been trying to do. I was very happy the other day. I received a letter—

An hon. Member: One letter!

Mr. Alexander: Don't worry! You just sit there and wait. God, that's an ignorant group over there.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Alexander: At one time, I called many of them my friends—that is outside of the house. When we get in the chamber there are no holds barred. If members on the government side keep on messing around, I am liable to get like the hon. member for Cape