

S.O. 21

[Translation]

Mr. Gourde: Madam Speaker, this kind of attitude on the part of the Progressive Conservatives is intolerable to the Canadian people. It is against the rules of the House, and it proves the Progressive Conservatives want to stay in the Opposition for a long time yet. The Canadian people preferred, and they still prefer a party that has sound principles and does not try all kinds of tricks which, in any case, do not fool anyone.

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● (1410)

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CALL FOR DISSOLUTION

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, a most fundamental principle of British parliamentary democracy is that a Government that is defeated on a tax or money Bill, is a Government that must leave this House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Resign!

Mr. Andre: Out!

Some Hon. Members: Out; out!

Mr. Mulroney: Madam Speaker, there is only one honourable course, not two, for the Government to follow, and that is for the Prime Minister to see the Governor General immediately to say that this House no longer exists.

Mr. Crosbie: Right on!

Mr. Mulroney: A very fundamental principle of British parliamentary democracy is at stake and, to ensure the maintenance of its integrity, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition will now leave the House to come back at such time as it is able to make its case as enunciated by the House Leader of this Party.

[Editor's Note: All Progressive Conservative Members thereupon left the Chamber.]

Madam Speaker: The Right Hon. Prime Minister.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

RULES OF ASSEMBLY

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am rising mainly to support your decision to follow the rules of this place. There is a principle of justice which antecedes that stated by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney). It is, first, that there should be civility in the exchange of politics; second, that the rules of the assembly

should be followed as interpreted by the Speaker of that assembly and, third, that when a ruling of a subordinate of the Chair, as has been the case here, has been asked to be discussed and has been raised as a question of privilege, as was the case on this side of the House, the Deputy Speaker having deferred to you, Madam Speaker, I think the basic principle of all principles is that you must hear the other side.

The Chair has heard from the House Leader of the Conservative Party. There is a principle which antecedes even British parliamentary justice and goes back to the laws of Rome. It is stated as *audi alteram partem*.

The Opposition do not want the other side to be heard, and I say in that they are flouting justice.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CRIMINAL CODE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENTS TO DEAL WITH DRUNK DRIVERS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, I have a statement. The Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) has cynically used a press conference in the holiday season to draw attention to his own public relations campaign on the issue of drunk driving. If the Minister thought that the measures he was proposing would actually reduce highway deaths due to drunk driving, he ought to have introduced legislation and have had it in place before this holiday season. The problem is that the measures he has proposed will not have that effect. All they will do is fill the prisons after the fact.

Certainly drunk drivers who cause death and injury deserve serious sentences, but merely to fill the prisons after the fact will not do what Canadians want, and that is to reduce the number of deaths. A realistic program to deal with this problem would have to involve the provincial Attorneys General, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) would have to deal with the whole issue of consumption, including advertising policy and taxation, as well as merely changing the Criminal Code. When so many lives are lost, it is not the time for press conferences, but for action.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PROCEDURE DURING DIVISION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Madam Speaker, when a political Party in this country aspires to be the Government, one would expect that at least it would be honest and civil. During the proceedings earlier today in Committee of the Whole it was patently obvious that, when a division was being taken in Committee of the Whole, the Opposition held numerous Members in the lobby, and behind