

*Procedure and Organization*

appeal is made to democracy in action in a country like ours.

[*English*]

The government is very unlikely to receive critical review from its own supporters, least of all in parliament. The majority which approves its proposals in parliament is a highly regulated majority. It is subject to all the pressures and penalties which any government in power may exert to regulate its followers.

Look at the regulation!

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

**Mr. Caouette:** They are regulated under the regulations of the party in power.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, about the stab that is to be given at one a.m. to the right to debate in the house, I say that many who will vote in favour of this rule, will regret it in a few years. But, then, it will be too late. We are being sucked into one-sided decisions. We are moving towards we do not know what. The Prime Minister, to conceal the perfidy of rule 75c, talks to us about the men who have travelled to the moon.

I wonder why he did not join those travellers to the moon a few days ago, but for one way only.

Mr. Speaker, the rule of closure was first applied on April 24, 1913. A debate had lasted from December 12, 1912, to April 10, 1913. At that time, the Conservative government applied the rule of closure. It was applied twice in 1917 and, then, was not invoked for four years.

The closure rule was applied by the Borden administration in 1917, on third reading of the Canadian National Railways bill.

It was applied a second time when the War-time Elections Act was being considered. The war in question is that of 1914-1918.

It was applied again in 1921 by the Meighen government, in connection with interim supply.

It was also applied in 1932, by the Bennett government during a debate on unemployment. Mackenzie King said on that occasion that it was "the most arbitrary and most coercive measure a government could enforce." He expressed the hope that it would not be considered as a precedent.

His 1969 successor is trying to show us the bright side of a system that is gagging us, of a system that presents us from saying what we have to say. The goes on merely repeating

that the opposition members are always making the same speeches and always singing the same tune.

It is sometimes important to repeat a speech when people do not understand or refuse to understand. Again I say that rule 75c could have been entirely discarded as recommended or suggested by the opposition. Rule 75A and 75B were enough. We would have gone on discussing here in the house while allocating reasonable periods of time for the consideration of government legislation.

Mr. Speaker, today it is a so-called Liberal who is applying the closure rule and who wants to make it permanent with this section 75c of the standing orders.

In 1956, it was applied four times in the space of 22 days by the Liberals during the pipe line debate. On May 14 1956, the Right Hon. C.D. Howe gave notice of the motion and on May 15 it was adopted. On May 30, prime minister St-Laurent gave a similar notice in the course of the debate on the bill to establish the crown corporation known as the Northern Ontario Pipeline. On May 31, the Right Hon. Louis St-Laurent had the legislation passed on quite recently, on December 14, 1964, the present solicitor general (Mr. McIlraith) took the same stand on the sixth report of the flag committee.

This measure always tends to cut off protracted debates.

Standing order 33 states that no member shall rise to speak after one o'clock in the morning and that the question should then be put.

Tonight, at one o'clock, the vote will be taken Mr. Speaker. We said what we had to say, we said what we thought and I think the government had in hand everything required to make progress in the business of the house.

Indeed, citation 88 of the fourth edition of Beauchesne reads as follows:

Let us now briefly indicate the influence directly exercised by the leader of the house on the course of business.

—of the house. In the present case, it means the President of the Privy Council.

It is his task in the name of the government and the party in office, to distribute over the session the programme of legislation announced in the king's speech and to advocate it in the house.

That is the responsibility of the house leader of the government.

He assumes the duty of proposing all such motions concerning the agenda of the house as are deemed advisable by the government and is their spokesman in the debate thereon.