

has never been in doubt. I have said that several times in this House and outside the House since I have had the honour to return to the House of Commons.

Mr. Crosbie: Act on it.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We also believe, as at Westminster, that amendments proposed in the second Chamber should be given adequate consideration by this House when those amendments are sent back, that artificial and arbitrary limits should not be imposed on this House's consideration of legislation. We also believe that in those rare cases that the Senate rejects a Bill passed by the House of Commons, the opinion of the House of Commons should be sought again before that Bill is again submitted. There should not be automatic Royal Assent.

What I do not like particularly about this resolution is that the way it is drafted allows the House of Commons to legislate by default, either at the fiat of the House Leader when the House is not sitting by the passage of 15 days. Not only is the Senate being affected by this very inadequate resolution but the rights of Hon. Members of this House are also being truncated. The Government is attempting to make a fundamental change to the way this country is governed. This motion requires us to think and vote not as ordinary legislators but as reformers of the Constitution, which is again why I believe the Prime Minister should have had the carriage of this resolution before the House.

We are not playing a game here. We are not playing a political game. We are rewriting the fundamental rules of the game in this country. We take this initiative very seriously, indeed.

I listened to the Minister carefully this morning. The reason, he said, the Government is presenting this legislation is that, "We can't allow legislation to be held up by the old Liberal clique in the Senate".

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The House Leader endorses that particular sentiment.

This motion expresses the Prime Minister's anger and his Irish frustration. With three-quarters of this House of Commons now under his control, he resents the independence of another Chamber.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Unelected.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): He even resents the independence of Ministers. He has put political commissars and chiefs of staff in every ministerial office to try to convert the style of our Government into a presidential system. He wants to remove every obstacle to his power, and one of the obstacles he wants to get out of the way is the Senate of Canada.

Mr. Crosbie: Where were you when Trudeau was in?

The Constitution

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): This is a massive power grab, Mr. Speaker, under a very simplistic constitutional resolution.

I would like to analyse for the House what the Senate really did to incur the Prime Minister's wrath.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): What does it do?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Well, that's a good question. I am not counted among the great admirers of the other place, and I have known the Hon. Member for a good long time. But what did the Senate do to incur the Minister's wrath and the Prime Minister's wish for revenge? What did the Senate do that was so heinous? What was so damaging to the fabric of our country that we must now amend the Constitution?

Mr. Crosbie: It endangered our credit rating and everything else.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, and I see you sitting transfixed by what I have to say—

Mr. Nunziata: Send him to the Senate.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, as I said to Finlay MacDonald on his appointment, that I am the only one standing between you and abolition. So listen to me carefully.

Quite simply, this is what happened: the Senators upheld a constitutional principle, a principle which I believe all of us in this House share, namely, the principle which was offended by the appropriation Bill, that Parliament gives new authority—listen to me carefully—to a Government to raise money only after the Government has provided a full explanation of the purposes for which the money will be used, only after it has tabled the Estimates for a particular year or brought in a Budget.

Mr. Crosbie: You are really an apologist.

● (1500)

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Minister does not like to hear a constitutional argument. Not that it bores him, he just cannot understand it.

Mr. Crosbie: I can understand the fix you are in with Allan MacEachen on the hotline.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I will tell you what I will do. I will give this undertaking to the Minister, that later I will buy him a drink and get down to the type of conversation he really enjoys, indeed relishes.

Mr. Crosbie: You are good in the locker-room; they tell me you are a bit of a jock.

Mr. Rossi: Go back to sleep, John.