

Government Orders

home, cannot rent a home, care what this government is doing to them.

• (1900)

There will be others, the comfortable ones, who will say: "Well, fair is fair; the Tories won the election in 1988". Was it fair? In the last two weeks of that election there were huge and expensive advertisements, the estimate is that they cost more than \$50 million. That would be two or three times as much as the Tory party or any party would be allowed to spend in the constituency campaigns in 295 constituencies. That would have been illegal if it had been spent by the Tory party. It was not spent by the Tory party, it was spent by its friends in the Business Council on National Issues and by the subordinate groups of sometimes smaller businesses that it directs.

With the help of that \$50 million spent by the richest people in Canada and in the United States on that last two weeks advertising campaign, letters were sent to their employees saying: "If free trade loses the election, you lose your job". That is quite a threat. I was shown some of the letters by working people in my riding.

With the help of that, this government now feels it can do anything it wants to do and tell the opposition to go jump in the lake. It can do anything that the Business Council on National Issues tells it to do on behalf of the richest class in this country, to the detriment of the working class in this country. By "working class" I do not mean people such as I was when I worked in a factory wearing dirty shirts and dirty jeans, working with dust and grease and ink, and so on; I mean all the workers, including the mental workers, school teachers, and many professionals who are becoming mobilized into the same situation as wage and salary workers. Almost all of them are being hurt by the changes this government is making in the laws. The government is ensuring its power to make those changes without opposition in this Parliament by the way it changes the rules.

When it comes to the next election, if it takes \$100 million instead of \$50 million to buy the advertisements and mislead and intimidate the public, the Business Council on National Issues will do it.

The richest class in this country has seized control of this government and it will not listen to the opposition or to the public. It believes—it is very confident, very cocky—that it can do it again and again throughout this Parliament and again in the next election.

Some of my colleagues have been saying: "You will not be back in the next election". One hundred million dollars can buy a lot of brainwashing, especially through the very powerful companies that own so much of the newspapers, radio and television, and that are destroying the small publishing companies, the small printing companies and the small weekly community newspapers which might have a more independent opinion. It is doing that through the GST and through extortionate raises in postage rates for small papers.

Parliament is not in itself the power in this country. Parliament is only an instrument, an instrument used by somebody. A few centuries ago when "Bad King John" thought he could do anything he liked, the barons got together, got him out on the island of Runnymede and presented the charter to him and said: "We would really like you to sign this". He looked around and he did not have enough of his own men to fight the barons and so he signed it, the Magna Carta. A few centuries later, King Charles I forgot about that. He thought he could tax people without the permission of Parliament. The English common people who fought the civil war cut off King Charles' head and established the principle that Parliament shall rule over taxation. No king or queen ever tried that again in England.

My friend says it was tried in the States.

We are getting this presidential style of executive power, copied in Canada by the present Prime Minister, from the dictatorial presidents of the United States: Reagan and Bush. It is done at the behest of the same rich corporations in the United States and in Canada. They are running the show and calling the tune.

Someday, and I do not think it can be very long, the people of Canada are going to decide that it is enough; electing people to Parliament is a waste of time. The Prime Minister senses, or his pollsters have told him, that the people are getting fed up with Parliament.