

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 19, 1968

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Hugh Faulkner (Peterborough) presented the second report of the standing committee on labour and employment, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The house resumed from Monday, March 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pilon:

That the name of Mr. Stafford be substituted for the name of Mr. Cowan on the standing committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts;

That the name of Mr. Ryan be substituted for the name of Mr. Cowan on the standing committee on health and welfare;

That the name of Mr. Groos be substituted for the name of Mr. Cowan on the standing committee on veterans affairs;

That the name of Mr. Noël be substituted for the name of Mr. Cowan on the joint committee on printing;

That the name of Mr. Caron be substituted for the name of Mr. Cowan on the joint committee on the parliamentary restaurant;

That the name of Mr. Patterson be substituted for the name of Mr. Leboe on the standing committee on labour and employment; and

That the name of Mr. Addison be substituted for the name of Mr. Goyer on the standing committee on transport and communications.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words about the motion introduced by the hon. member for Chambly-Rouville (Mr. Pilon), whip of the Liberal party.

First of all, it is obvious that it is designed to withdraw his committee membership from the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan), who was a member of several committees.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that independent members have always been subjected to that sort of discrimination, because

they never could be accepted on or appointed to any committee.

I admit the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) sits on several committees, but for a very simple reason: he is a disguised Liberal.

On the other hand, the former member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) was not a member of any committee.

I have not been a member of any committee since I have been sitting as an independent.

The member for York-Humber is to suffer the same fate; he is to be kept from sitting on committees. Why? Because he voted against taxes. Because he voted against the Liberal party, he is thrown out and forced to sit as an independent. He is denied the privilege of sitting on committees because he was not good, obedient. Because he did not act like a sheep, his lollipop is to be taken away from him. He is to be denied the right to sit on committees, and denied trips, etc.

● (2:40 p.m.)

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Trudeau) spoke words in 1963 which can characterize the present situation. Indeed, in an article published in the April 1963 issue of "*Cité libre*" he said, and I quote:

—I wonder about the antidemocratic reflexes of the aboullic Liberal flock.

That is what he said about the Liberal party: "The aboullic Liberal herd" because, at that time, the Liberals were just like a flock, everyone voted like the leader, no one ever strayed from the beaten path and the present Minister of Justice was opposed to that.

Now, here is a member, within the Liberal party, who assumes his responsibilities, who uses his freedom, who acts like a member of parliament rather than a little Liberal sheep, a member of the "aboullic Liberal flock" and who votes according to his conscience. He is immediately thrown out. That justifies the fears expressed by the Minister of Justice when he said:

—I wonder about the antidemocratic reflexes of the aboullic Liberal flock.