

House of Commons

situation where even before we start debating a piece of legislation, the Government indicates that it wishes to use the closure motion, a motion which has almost never been used in the House of Commons. Its use, historically, has been restricted to such debates as the pipeline debate of 1957, and even in 1957, there is no question but that the pipeline debate had actually started in the House of Commons.

We now have a situation where the Deputy Government House Leader is rising before we have heard one word of debate on the topic and saying: "Before you start that debate tomorrow, Members of Parliament, we are going to bring in closure".

If we do not have any defence with regard to the Government's ability to change the rules at any time, what defence do we ever have?

I recognize that it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker. I wish to continue my remarks tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is my obligation at the moment to close the House, but before doing so I think it is appropriate to say that I have been listening with very great care to arguments. There is, of course, an argument on the motion. There is, of course, an argument raised on the secondary matter, that is the motion for closure.

I want Hon. Members to know that I am aware there are two issues which I have to address. I shall do the best I can to return to the House as speedily as possible after proper deliberation.

It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.
