

Procedure and Organization

able to offer suggestions as to how this impasse could possibly be handled and dealt with. Some of us have not been here long enough. I am one of them. However, there are some who have been here too long.

An hon. Member: The Solicitor General.

Mr. Hogarth: We were all sent here to serve.

• (10:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) is rising on a point of privilege.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the hon. member should be allowed to insult the Solicitor General (Mr. McLraith) like that. He is a respected long-standing member of the house, the dean.

Mr. Hogarth: Mr. Speaker, I always thought he was one of the younger members.

If I might conclude, I should like to say that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) suggested to the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Kaplan) that there are still some things wrong with the rules.

Mr. Stanfield: I asked him a question.

Mr. Hogarth: Yes, and he thought there were. I think any rule in a court of law or in the articles of association of a company or society can be misused or misconstrued. If these rules we shall adopt in the early morning hours tomorrow should work to the disadvantage of democracy, in my view and I know in the view of every member on the back benches either in the minority or majority, we will have to change those rules.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogarth: We will have to change them time and time again if necessary, until this chamber becomes a rational and productive institution responsible to the people of Canada.

Mr. Bell: By closure?

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I thought perhaps the hon. member might have indicated his willingness to answer my question when he finished. Will he say quite frankly and honestly whether he is prepared to recommend this rule to the house in its present form and whether he considers it is a good rule for the house to adopt?

[Mr. Hogarth.]

Mr. Hogarth: Mr. Speaker, is the Leader of the Opposition referring to 75b or 75c?

Mr. Stanfield: I am referring to the motion which is before us.

Mr. Hogarth: I will answer, Mr. Speaker. My position is that it is too late to try to change it now in this session.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Bell: There is the first honest answer we have had.

Mr. Hogarth: I say that we should use what we have here now, see how it operates and not cry until somebody is offended.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Crouse: Not one of you are satisfied with this rule.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure all hon. members are anxious to hear the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis).

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tuesday, July 22, was a bleak day for parliament, for it marked the rupture of a process whereby government and opposition, the two essential parts of the House of Commons, were seeking to work together to streamline and modernize the machinery of parliament, and regardless of what may or may not be said here we all want to streamline and modernize the machinery of parliament. But we want it streamlined to work more effectively to pass government legislation without interfering with the vital function of the opposition which is to criticize government measures and bring forward alternative policies.

We have heard a lot in this debate from government spokesmen about the need for the government majority to rule. Let us make no mistake about what happened on Tuesday. When the government house leader gave notice of closure on Tuesday he was turning the country away from rule by the majority to the direction of arbitrary government, first the rule of one party and then the rule of one man government. Let us make no mistake about it; we are, under this rule, getting away from majority rule. Democracy is the new thing which the world is striving so hard to build today. Autocracy and dictatorship represent the age-old road—there is no doubt about it—of those who have no faith in the people, those who fear the people and those