

travel. However, the Government indicated its fear of being brought down if its members were away travelling. I think the Government would have received some co-operation from us. For instance, if the committee that was travelling was comprised of six government Members, three of our Members and perhaps an NDP Member, we would ensure that two other people in addition to the four who are travelling would not vote in order to ensure that an equal number is away from the Chamber. I put that proposition to the Government last week so that it would not have any fear of being defeated while the committee was travelling. The government Party would not need to be afraid of being defeated during this time when they are seeking a leader. I do not know if they will find any leadership within their corps, perhaps only a few retreats.

The difficulty is that the Government does not want the committee to travel. What is annoying about that is that only the wealthy people in this country will be able to attend the committee hearings as witnesses because they can afford to pay for hotels and air fare. There are average citizens and community organizations from areas like Esquimalt, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg or Yarmouth in Nova Scotia that might wish and might be able to contribute something if a hearing were held in areas near them. However, they might not be able to afford to come to Ottawa to make their presentations before the committee here, so that it will be only the well-heeled and well-established organizations from which we will hear when the committee sits to discuss this Bill.

The fact that the Government has taken 17 years to bring this Bill forward is no reason for having to rush through it in a day or two or on four Friday afternoons in a row. If the Government wanted to be responsible, democratic and listen to what Canadians felt about this Bill, it would go out of its way to ensure that concerned average Canadians of modest means are able to give their evidence before the committee. In order to do that, it should allow the committee to travel.

I believe the committee should have the right to travel, and even during the dying hours of debate at second reading I hope the Government will reconsider its strident and arrogant position of insisting that everyone must come to Ottawa to give evidence to the committee. I believe this would significantly increase the input into a Bill which gives the potential right to delve into the most minute areas of private life and political activity.

This is a Bill seeking to establish a Security Intelligence Service that can potentially spy on citizens and inquire into the political activities of organizations throughout the country. Since it has the potential for intruding into the civil liberties of the average Canadian, I believe it to be prudent to permit the committee to travel and to hear from Canadians from all over the country.

The fact that the Government has moved a foolish little motion—which it certainly has the right to do—just shows that it certainly does not read the pulse of this Chamber or understand what is going on. But that is not new. The Government has not understood what has been happening for at least four years. Of course, the polls indicate that.

Security Intelligence Service

Mr. Pepin: For twenty years.

Mr. Dick: The Hon. Minister of State for External Relations (Mr. Pepin) understands that they have been misjudging the people for many years as well.

Mr. Pepin: Twenty.

Mr. Dick: I don't know. I have not been involved for that long. I am not as old hat as that, but maybe you are.

Mr. Evans: You have not been involved for the last four years.

Mr. Dick: I think I have a pretty good pulse on the people, and I can say that I have a much higher percentage of popular vote in my riding than you have in yours.

Mr. Evans: Do you want to bet?

Mr. Dick: Yes, gladly. However, those are only a couple of comments from that mischievous, sometimes referred to as evil, rather arrogant and boisterous Parliamentary Secretary who wants to try to muzzle the House. Common sense would tell him to travel and learn what the people want. Do not insist on putting those people of modest means to great expense. You would strike a deal with opposition Parties. They do not want to try to bring down the Government when it is searching for a leader—

• (1540)

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dick:—unless the Liberals show continued absolute ineptitude. Their only worry is that they do not have pairs for a committee of six people. I say, "Come and we will strike a deal. We will make sure that because this committee is travelling your Government will not be defeated". If, however, you are incompetent in other areas, then that is another kettle of fish and, of course, if you do prove to be incompetent in other areas, you will not be able to point your finger at this committee having travelled.

I encourage the Government to reflect, to think and to stop its arrogant approach to things. I encourage it to be more democratic, to ask the people and to listen to the people especially, because this Bill can invade the privacy of individuals, it can invade political organizations and it can invade civil liberties and civil rights in that it is a Bill that deals with the Security and Intelligence Service. It is so important that all Canadians from all walks of life and of various means should have an opportunity to make representations. I encourage this Government to reflect and to try, through co-operation rather than the usual confrontational approach, to get along and see if it cannot do things a little more democratically.

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, like other speakers on this side of the House this afternoon, I am somewhat disappointed by the Government for the trick it has pulled today. I will not call anyone on the other side any nasty names, unlike other Members, but I do not think respect is