

Business of the House

House and three hours later said that the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Watson) was supernumerary and was out. One hundred and ten members of the 150 on the Liberal side of the House have various jobs and some of them are filled with an abiding interest. They feel that if they make it clear that they hear the master's voice, ultimately they will hear the master's voice say, "Follow me".

Mr. Woolliams: Where the hell were they yesterday?

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is the ultimate rape of Parliament by a group of members who do not represent the majority of the people of Canada. Their support has fallen away in recent weeks to such an extent that whenever the election comes that will be the end of them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: Smallwood.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) made a biblical reference earlier in his speech.

An hon. Member: To you.

Mr. Jamieson: I was about to say, Sir, that if the Leader of the Opposition can make a biblical reference perhaps I might be permitted to say that if God had had to choose someone to holler the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai he would have picked the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants. If he had had the help of the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings he would have made even the Ten Commandments sound like a first degree murder indictment.

The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) knows of the high regard I have for him. I would hope he would not class me among any fuddy-duddies in this House. He also made an analogy involving Machiavelli. He talked about the rare talents of Machiavelli which he said included craft, various other skills, and a certain amount of deviousness. Indeed, it might be that for a moment I had the impression he was talking about himself. Under these circumstances he will not regard that as an insult because in fact he will know too, as a great student of history, that at long last Machiavelli is being in a sense restored to a position of prominence in the eyes of many people, including historians, and there is still hope that the hon. member may yet achieve a rehabilitated position himself.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: May I say I sympathize profoundly with him on one point. He referred to the backbenchers of this party and the way in which there is an immediate and almost uniform response on every occasion to what he described as a master's voice. We can understand the difficulty on the other side because the voice tends to come from two places almost at the same time and is often contradictory.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that time is short. I am aware also that my right hon. friend and I enjoy this kind of thing.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Quote your Prime Minister and tell us about the bums and idiots.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Minister of Transport has the floor.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, once again I am so grateful to the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert and may I quote him in response to the somewhat offensive remarks from the opposition side by saying when I am on the trail of elephants I am not detracted by rabbit tracks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: In the limited time, if hon. members—

An hon. Member: You are surrounded by seals.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition spoke in his usual way and perhaps his natural way—quite modestly. I suppose it could be said he has a great deal to be modest about. But I want to say to him it is a fact that for whatever reason the documents concerned were not delivered into the hands of some opposition members they were in fact available from July 12. If the conclusion to be drawn from this is that the Tory party does not have a single friend among the tax experts in Canada, I can very well understand that. May I also say on a more serious note that despite comments to the contrary—

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. member had to get it by a leak.

Mr. Jamieson: The right hon. member should know that when we do that we do not tear the cover off the book.

I would agree, Mr. Speaker, with the House leader for the New Democratic Party. As is often the case he had, in my opinion, the most reasoned and most sensible comments to make in this debate. It is of no consequence on either side that I do not happen to agree with them in a basic way, but I do admire the fair and sensible way in which he put them forward and decided to dwell on the issues and not on extraneous matter. Because I would dearly love to have followed his example—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: He doesn't want to get experience.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: If hon. members want to holler I can give them a bigger holler than almost anybody else.

In the few moments remaining I should like to make one or two serious comments and direct them to the issues which have been raised in the usual statesmanlike manner by the leader of the House party of the New Democratic Party.