

will know that it was the largest number of seats that any government ever lost. In the 1962 election, the Diefenbaker government lost 90 seats. They weren't quite swept out of office, but just about. A few months later the Canadian people finished what they started in the 1962 election, sweeping them the rest of the way out of office. And why? Because they had done some very stupid things, things that were equal in stupidity to the phasing out of these two programs—

Senator Flynn: Your memory is not very clear.

Senator Olson: Oh, wasn't that the reason? I was watching the scene very carefully at the time, because I was right in the House of Commons along with Senator Flynn. We could see one program after the other—

Senator Flynn: They elected Creditistes at the time. Where are they now?

Senator Olson: They did their job and they did it rather well. They swept all of the Conservatives out of Quebec.

Senator Frith: That is in their favour.

Senator Flynn: That is right. It was a big mistake—

Senator Frith: You have to say that that is in their favour.

Senator Flynn: It was a big mistake. They themselves were, in turn, swept away.

Senator Olson: The biggest mistake was that they elected 50 Conservatives from Quebec in the 1958 election. The people realized very quickly, because of the way the government acted, that they made a mistake. That was why the Creditistes got in. I think 26 or so got elected. And the reason was that the people knew they had made a terrible mistake in electing all of those Conservatives.

And here is another one of those programs. Every time you go to a committee, every time you have a discussion, even with Conservatives, you get agreement that these are good programs; that they are among the most cost effective programs. Yet, they are being set aside.

Before I was interrupted by Senator Flynn I was about to say that, at this rate, I do not believe this government is going to last more than four years. The last Gallup poll—

Senator Flynn: That is not relevant to the bill—but go ahead.

Senator Olson: It is relevant to the bill. We have the right to expect to see some reasonable, good common sense in the practical application of and the approach to these questions and we are not getting it when these kinds of programs are being swept away.

● (1640)

Senator Steuart: Will you quit interfering with the speech of Senator Flynn?

Senator Olson: Senator Flynn seems to think that he has an obligation to make a speech every time I get to my feet. He usually does it sitting down.

Senator Flynn: You invited me to participate.

Senator Olson: Your Honour, if you look at the blues afterwards, you will find that he usually makes as great a contribution to my speeches as I do.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Let us get back to the bill.

Senator Olson: This is a very sad day for the reasons I have just explained. Why do we throw out programs which everybody admits are good programs? Senator Kelly has not answered this question. He has said that the government will bring in other measures because we are on the road to conservation and substitution now, that some great and wonderful lessons have been learned from these programs, but we do not know what they are. Surely he should say what they are.

As I said, I do not want to make a long speech, and I guess it would satisfy Senator Flynn if I did not remind him of all these points. However, there is one thing I think we should remember, and it is with regard to the politics of this kind of activity in which the government has been involved for several months now. As a result of the last Gallup poll it looks as if they may be going into a free fall. It is because of these kinds of things. This government has completely lost credibility already. People do not believe them any more.

Senator Walker: Now, now.

Senator Olson: That is true. The senior citizens of this country will never believe anybody in this government any more.

Senator Bonnell: Nor will the women if they are called "babies."

Senator Olson: That is right. The credibility of any government at any given time is important. One thing my honourable friends opposite should realize, including Senator Walker, is that this government was not elected on the basis of its credibility. It had to earn that credibility after it took office. This government was elected because the people of this country wanted change. They are getting a change all right. They are getting incompetence as a substitute for the competent government that was there. They are realizing that day by day.

Senator Walker: You are still a sorehead. You have been a sorehead ever since the election.

Senator Frith: It takes one to know one.

Senator Olson: No, never. Senator Doody is right—Senator Olson has never been a sorehead. I just hate to see programs discontinued when everybody admits that they were good, simply because they happen to have a label on them that does not suit the people opposite. I think that to continue these phasing out activities will lead to what the Canadian people really need, and that is the demise of this government as early as possible.

Senator Frith: If not sooner.

Senator Kelly: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, if the Honourable Senator Kelly speaks now his speech will have