

Procedure and Organization

going to get a clear statement in respect of our policy as a result of debating rule 75c. Those hon. members opposite who are associated with war veterans and their associations must recognize the sense of frustration these people have as a result of the failure of this government to take concrete and firm action to improve their lot. Members must know how difficult it is to explain the actions of this government. I should not want to be placed in the position of a member opposite in trying to explain the inaction of this government and its indifference toward the serious problems facing this country. I admire some of the members opposite for their gall. I do not know how they manage to sit silent. When they shave in the morning it must be difficult for them to look at themselves when they think of some of the actions and statements, both callous and stupid, of the Prime Minister and other members of his government which they are told to support.

● (3:30 p.m.)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The chair is finding it difficult to link NATO, wheat and housing to the proposed Standing Order 75c. I would ask the hon. member to restrict his remarks to the subject before the house.

Mr. Carter: With great respect to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, the matters I have referred to are relevant in that they are subjects we could be discussing now instead of wasting our time discussing rule 75c. The point I am trying to make is that it is not the opposition that has hindered the government from bringing in its legislation. We have been very co-operative, and if legislation is good we approve it. But as opposition members there are certain things we cannot accept.

If the government is not ready with legislation to deal with housing and urban renewal, with additional benefits for veterans, and to deal with other crucial questions, then the government should not blame us for filibustering this debate. We do not delay the government on legislation which, in our opinion, is good legislation.

All hon. members realize the serious economic problems facing Canada today. I could cite the increased bank interest rates and the increased interest rates on mortgages. These are matters to which we should turn our attention, instead of wasting our time and energy discussing this proposed measure. As I have said, the opposition is anxious to co-operate with the government in adopting

legislation that it feels is important and good for Canada. We are begging the government to bring in such legislation.

Questions have been asked daily in the house for the last two or three weeks about so-called guidelines in relation to urban renewal, but we have been unable to obtain satisfactory answers. We are only too ready to co-operate with the government on such legislation. Yet we have to discuss this obnoxious rule which will have the effect of gagging parliament.

Let me tell hon. members opposite that it is not the opposition that is ruining their image in Canada. The government came to the house about a year ago with a mandate from the Canadian people. I am sure hon. gentlemen opposite are frustrated by the knowledge that their image has slipped badly since that time. They must not blame us for that; let them blame their own Prime Minister and some of his statements.

Mr. McBride: What about the orders that have come down?

Mr. Carter: The hon. member is quite familiar with the orders that have been passed around.

Mr. Crouse: He certainly knows all about that.

Mr. Forrestall: I can think of no one more qualified to talk about that than the hon. member.

Mr. Carter: The hon. member is rapidly learning the smart alec attitude taken by his leader. Why does the hon. member not rise in his place and make a speech? We would be delighted to hear from him, instead of listening to his smart alec remarks. This sort of thing will not get the government, the Prime Minister, or for that matter the people of Canada anywhere. This matter is too serious for that sort of thing.

As the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) suggested this morning, the government house leader is acting like a bull in a china shop. He lacks the tact to reach agreement with the other house leaders. As a result, we are wasting our time discussing this proposal. I would ask hon. members opposite to bear in mind the fact that it will not be long before they are over on this side of the house—two or three years.

An hon. Member: A Tory dream.

Mr. Carter: This is not a dream. Hon. members opposite may like to think it is but