

That is what appeared on the editorial page of the famous *Winnipeg Free Press*, one of the greatest papers in Canada. Here is what Grant Dexter, a very able correspondent who for years on every possible occasion presented the behaviour of this government in the best possible light, had to say writing from Ottawa:

Through all of this hubbub, the most arresting figure on the government side of the house was Prime Minister St. Laurent. He sat, impassive, expressionless, chin in hand, an open book on his desk, silent. His aloofness is almost unbelievable.

Especially at a time of high controversy, prime ministers, regardless of who the house leader may be, always dominate proceedings and lead their own party. Mr. St. Laurent does neither.

Mr. Harris: Would my hon. friend be good enough to refer to the speeches the Prime Minister has made since that date.

Mr. Nicholson: I would, but unfortunately my time is limited to 20 minutes.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nicholson: The Prime Minister was dishonest yesterday—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Nicholson:—in representing to the house that Mackenzie King accepted closure in 1932 without protest. I have not the time to read what the Prime Minister said yesterday and what Mr. Mackenzie King said in 1932, but anyone who wants to read *Hansard* will come to the conclusion that the bright boy, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, who was a professor of history, did not brief his leader adequately before he spoke yesterday.

I am sorry the Minister of National Health and Welfare has left, but I am sure he will agree with me that the *Windsor Star* is a most reliable paper. Last Saturday the *Windsor Star* had this to say:

Sorry Spectacle in Commons

It is well to recognize, however, the government is to blame. By autocratic methods it is forcing through the house legislation which is not in the best interests of Canada.

Mr. Pickersgill: What is the hon. gentleman reading from?

Mr. Nicholson: The *Windsor Star* of Saturday, May 26. Also from the *Windsor Star* by Lum Clark, who is a close friend of the minister—Mr. Chairman, I must draw your attention to the fact that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is trying to cut down my time limit of 20 minutes.

Mr. Pickersgill: Nothing would give me greater pleasure,

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Nicholson: Lum Clark had this to say:

During debate on the emergency powers act, Right Hon. C. D. Howe said: "If we want to do it, who do you think is going to stop us?"

Who is going to stop the government ramming through the pipe line loan?

If the Liberals want to do it, they can vote it through. Party discipline will see to that.

The *Windsor Star* also said:

The late Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King had his faults. He had, however, a respect for the Commons and an ability to handle it. He would never have resorted to closure—

Mr. Pickersgill: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nicholson: One member of the government, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, is the only one who is applauding.

An hon. Member: Mackenzie King is communicating with him.

Mr. Nicholson: That is the message, I suppose. I continue:

—it being alien to his concepts of Liberalism. And Mr. King would never have been trapped into the deal in which the present government has got itself.

I must finish, Mr. Chairman. Mr. King would never have been trapped into the deal into which the present government has got itself.

What has happened in the Commons during the past few days always will be a stain on the Liberal party's banner. It is impossible to reconcile true Liberalism with the methods of autocrats.

Of course I must not pass over the *Toronto Star*. There are a number of other newspapers that I have here, but the *Toronto Star*, which has so loyally supported the present administration—

Mr. Pickersgill: What is the date of that?

Mr. Nicholson: This is dated Saturday, May 26:

The government made its mistake in resorting to closure before there was any justification for it.

Mr. Pickersgill: Read some of the editorials this week.

Mr. Nicholson: It continues:

If it admits this error now by permitting several days of unfettered debate, it can help to wipe out the bitterness that has developed and get the pipe-line debate back on a serious and constructive plane.

The *London Free Press* says:

Respect for the Speaker is vital to the survival of parliament, but this respect must be earned and maintained by impartial use of the powers which parliament vests in the Speaker.

I see the minister is following this very closely. This is in the *London Free Press* of Monday, May 28.

One of the most unfortunate aspects of the present situation is the position in which it places the Speaker and the difficulty he faces in maintaining anything like an impartial attitude under current conditions.