

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

And that is part of the right of people to speak in this house. I continue:

—until parliament itself betrays the trust by contributing to establish new principles of government, and employing the very weapons committed to it by the collective body to stab the constitution.

That is what we witnessed today. Let us remember that the acts of today become the precedents of tomorrow. That is the dangerous thing, and that is why we must protest if we have any conception of freedom and any conception of the position of parliament as representing the Canadian people.

I want to pay tribute to a private citizen of Canada, one who exemplifies the thing upon which democracy is built. Democracy is built in the hearts and the minds of the private citizens who are alert and alive to the dangers to democracy; who are constantly on the watch and, when they see something happening that is wrong, do what they can and what they should about it. An unknown lady, whose address is Ottawa, wrote a letter to a local newspaper. She was apparently stirred. This unknown individual, sitting in her little home—I do not know where her home is—did a service to democracy. She did what little she could. She was a Canadian. She wrote to the *Ottawa Journal* as follows:

On May 15 Canada was sold "down the river" and democracy went with her, perhaps forever.

This colossus of a government however, does not fear any adverse fate because it knows, as past elections have proved, that Canadians are incapable of moral indignation.

An hon. Member: She must be a Tory.

Mr. Castleden: You ought to know. I am sure she could not be related to you. I continue:

There is no scandal big enough to shock the Canadian people. Shackled by an inertia sedulously cultivated by a wartime government, transfixed by their T.V., captivated by their comics, eager only for their monthly baby bonus (soothing syrup divine), they are completely indifferent to the political scene and the methods employed by their rulers.

It means nothing to them that debate in the house has long been a farce, with the cat-calls and jeers of the Liberals, and the systematic garroting of the opposition by Mr. Speaker, making a mockery of this democracy for which so many of their fathers have died. They cannot see that for this they will pay, and in coinage even more bitter than that just minted on parliament hill.

Mr. Cannon: May I ask a question?

Mr. Castleden: I pay tribute to the one who wrote it. You would not understand. After I get through you may ask all the questions you like. This lady was stirred by injustice. I am sorry to say you are not. She was very stirred because she saw the loss of freedom. She picked up her pen and wrote a protest.

[Mr. Castleden.]

It is very little. She did what she should; she sounded a warning. So long as Canada produces such citizens we need not be afraid of democracy; we need have no fear for it. So long as we elect and send to parliament members who will fight against the breaking of the rules of parliament we do not fear.

"The nation which values anything higher than its own freedom will lose that freedom". There is the lesson to us all. No Canadian worthy of the name should fail at this time to utter his protest. Knowing Canadians as I do, when they learn what has happened today they will within the year, I predict, relegate this infamous gang of dictators, the government over there, who have violated Canadian democracy, down to the abysmal depths of oblivion from whence they never should have come.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Chairman, it is my purpose to take only a few moments. It has been said many times that there has been no opportunity to ask questions and have those questions answered. I want to make it clear that we have had 19 days of debate in discussing this bill.

Mr. Drew: That is not so.

Mr. Rowe: That is not true; you are wrong again. You have had only 14.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): What did we do on the other days; discuss points of order?

Mr. Drew: You cannot count the days. There were but 14 days.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Fourteen days is quite a time.

Mr. Pickersgill: A lot of days were taken on those undebatable motions.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I have had my officers here before me for several days, and tonight I have kept them up far later than their usual bedtime. I have had two questions to date, which I shall endeavour to answer. A short time ago the hon. member for St. Paul's wanted to ask a question. Through a misunderstanding the chairman did not give him an opportunity. If he would care to put the question now I would be very glad to deal with it if I can.

An hon. Member: He has gone.

An hon. Member: No, he is right there.

Mr. Bell: Ask him, Rolly.

Mr. Knowles: Careful! If you sit down you can only speak once.

Mr. Bell: The first and only question will now be asked.