

*Procedure and Organization*

And so we have in this country a new silent service. The silent service used to be the navy, but that was in the years B.H.—“before Hellyer”. One would think these hon. members would realize how they have been silenced by this power cell. Surely they realize that if the opposition is muzzled as effectively as they have been, there is little opportunity in this country for democratic government.

If any of them do have the temerity to rise in their places it is because the government wants them to fill in a little time. After all, they have not been heard from for so long, and they cannot do any harm anyway. I am sure the government thinks that it will keep them so occupied that they just will not realize how unnecessary they are to the brains trust.

If the Liberal backbenchers are prepared to pay such a price just to be members of the Trudeau team, then that is a matter for them. But this is too high a price for me to pay as a member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. I will not be bound and gagged, allowed only the privilege of sitting in the house to rubberstamp legislation fed to me by a power mad, small group, power cell.

Last June 25 approximately 55 per cent of the people who cast votes in the riding of Lambton-Kent supported me. They gave me a mandate to represent them in this house to the best of my ability. In giving me that honour they did not suggest for one minute that I monopolize the time of the house. Nor did they want me to be irresponsible or frivolous. They wanted me to speak out when their interests were involved. They wanted me to co-operate with the government when that co-operation was for the good of Canada.

The people of Lambton-Kent do not want their representative in this house silenced. I am the current member for that riding, but this can be said with equal emphasis of my successors in the years ahead.

I am concerned about what is happening in the house. It is most depressing to see such a confrontation in the chamber at this time in our history. There is so much in this country of which to be proud. Although we have many problems to solve, we are hamstrung because of the intransigent attitude of three or four members.

Mankind is capable of fantastic feats for the common good at this juncture in our history. Today three men are embarking upon a journey to explore the unknown on another

[Mr. McCutcheon.]

planet. When you stop to think of the thousands of sincere, dedicated people whose fantastic know-how has made possible the Apollo moon shot, do you not wonder why it should be necessary for this little group of power hungry people to try to regiment an institution like parliament?

• (3:30 p.m.)

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. McCutcheon:** If we are to accomplish anything worth while in the future we must make full use of our human resources. We cannot hope to do that if we permit ourselves to be dominated by two or three men, no matter who they are or what their intentions. One has only to pick up any daily newspaper to realize that this is so. I suppose if I were a member of the legal profession I should say that the evidence speaks for itself.

As I said before, although mankind is equipped now as never before to do good, this parliament is fiddling around over rule 75c. This situation, according to Bill Robinson of the London *Free Press*, has one virtue. Time being used in this debate is time that would normally be spent on vacations or in constituency work. Consequently, this debate is not interfering with the progress of legislation.

The tragedy is that we could have spent our time to better advantage by doing something to curb water and air pollution, instead of adding to it. We have been promised action on a new water policy for two or three years. Of course there has been more promise than action. In the meantime our precious resources of clean water and clean air continue to deteriorate.

When the government is questioned about these matters in the house, the answer is always the same. Spokesmen for the government say, “Give us the right to dictate and we will talk about agriculture; give us the right to dictate and we will talk about the high cost of living; give us the right to dictate and we will talk about everything else that affects the life of the average Canadian.” Sure! The government will talk about these things and make sure the opposition is gagged.

When I consider that the members of this house belong to the same race of beings who are capable of sending a man to the moon, and when I consider that the people of today's world are very far advanced in technology but very little refined in the art of co-operation, it makes me wonder just where