

Procedure and Organization

they doing? Do they feel we are puppets? I have illustrated the divisions in the cabinet. I do not have to tell hon. members that there were other divisions.

One cabinet minister had to quit because he could not get anywhere with housing. He was forced out. I notice the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) is now holding meetings in the anteroom of parliament. I happened to be there today when he was busy explaining the situation that occurred in the House of Commons. This is what goes on with this government. It gives me a feeling of sadness.

I have a lot of sympathy for members opposite. I do not think they are the kind of fellows who would do this sort of thing. They come from Canadian farmlands and cities. I cannot understand why they are being subjected to the psychological brainwashing which they are receiving from the Prime Minister. I do not understand how they can take this sort of treatment day after day. There are many disagreements in cabinet, yet nobody pays any attention to them. While disagreements are being voiced, the Prime Minister has his group of four each morning to decide what is going to be done. He also has regional offices.

What position do government backbenchers have? I do not say this to be critical, I say it out of sadness; what are we doing to parliament? That is the big question. I say to hon. members that if Canada is to be given the service she deserves, and if hon. members are going to play their part in preserving the democratic institutions that have been handed down in trust to us, they should make their voices heard against the Prime Minister and those who wish to push this folly through and destroy parliament.

Many members opposite come from areas similar to my own. They come from good homes and have been educated in Canadian schools. I expect them to rise in the next few days and say to the Prime Minister of this country, "you cannot do this any longer; you have no purpose; you have no reason. You have not taken parliament into your confidence. Why do you want this rule? What do you want to accomplish? Do you want to destroy parliament? Where are you going? I say to hon. members opposite that in the final analysis they will suffer just as much as we will.

Mr. Paproski: They will suffer more when the Prime Minister gets back from the west!

Mr. Rynard: Canadian history and the Canadian parliament will suffer. These are the real issues. Closure is not important. When it is necessary to resort to closure, there has been a failure to communicate. There has been a failure to sell the bill of goods they are presenting. This is the problem with this government. There is no need for closure. If communication lines are working, if the bill is good, if the government is a proper salesman, the measure will be accepted by every one on this side. It is as simple as that. No one refuses legislation which is good for the people of Canada.

Over and over again we have asked for the rights of old age pensioners to be respected. That has been pointed out time and again. The government raised the pension 4 per cent while costs have gone up 16 per cent. We have been asking for help for those men who are unable to help themselves. This government has let things run wild. Surely, the economic position of this country is far more important than anything else. Yet the government is trying to push through a proposal that would give them power they do not need and for which there is no reason to ask at the present time. Why did they not take us into their confidence?

• (4:10 p.m.)

Perhaps hon. gentlemen opposite want to say to us in effect: "We want to change parliament and we have some ideas about it. You fellows get elected and we will call you here. Then, following the Speech from the Throne you can go home and an executive council will run the country for the next four years. We will then call you back here and dissolve parliament and have an election". The trouble with that proposition, Mr. Speaker, is that the government might do exactly what it is doing now, bring in closure and stay here forever.

There are some intelligent men across the way. I know there are some good members on the other side. I hope that in the next few days these members will issue an ultimatum to the Prime Minister and demand he stop this nonsense. We have had many trials in our democratic history, but we have yet to suffer at the hands of dictators like Hitler and Mussolini, as have other countries.

Mr. Paproski: Don't forget Joey Smallwood.

Mr. Rynard: Well, he is far enough away at the moment not to bother us. The interesting thing about democracy is that it always destroys itself from within. Civilizations perish