

member of Parliament in that independent sense in which the rest of members are. My point is, in short, that he is here in the capacity of a delegate, I intended no offence to the hon. member for Assiniboia in putting forward that contention, and as a matter of fact no hon. member can construe my remarks into anything offensive. I think the hon. member has made a mistake in subscribing to such an agreement as he says he has signed. The principle is bad and I therefore support the amendment moved by the hon. member for West Calgary (Mr. Tweedie).

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: I cannot congratulate the Opposition or the Government supporters, and least of all can I congratulate my hon. friend from West Calgary (Mr. Tweedie), on the strategy of this amendment. I do not know that in my short political experience, and in the longer time that I have been reading the annals of Parliament, I ever knew an amendment proposed or a motion brought forward that had in it so many certain boomerang strokes. The hon. member for Edmonton has stated what I think is absolutely correct that the Conservative party in Alberta has been for years a very advanced party. Indeed it has not been Conservative in anything but name. It has been singularly unfortunate in its attempts to gain power, but the fact remains that it has had very democratic planks in its platform. One of its planks according to the hon. member for Edmonton who is generally correct in what he states—

Mr. GRIESBACH: Would the hon. gentleman be good enough to designate properly? He is referring to the hon. member for East Edmonton (Mr. Mackie).

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: Well, the greater includes the less, the less bears the name of the greater. I am sorry that I should have ruffled the feelings of my hon. friend (Mr. Griesbach).

Mr. GRIESBACH: Not at all; it is only in the interest of accuracy.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: I am endeavouring to be as accurate as I know how. The member for East Edmonton (Mr. Mackie) has stated that this democratic plank has been the referendum, the initiative and the recall. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Tweedie) deny that it has ever been a plank in the platform of the Conservative party of Alberta?

Mr. TWEEDIE: It is not to my knowledge that the initiative, referendum and

recall has been advocated, as the hon. member states. Personally, I have always been opposed to the recall and I am opposed to it now. Even if I had not opposed it, surely the hon. member for Red Deer would give a member the liberty of changing his views on any question?

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: I will certainly extend to my hon. friend all the liberty of thought that is within reason, but the liberty claimed by my hon. friend to be the leader of a party which could ever be suspected of supporting a democratic plank such as that in a province, and then to come into the debates of this federal House and found himself upon a statesman who lived at the end of the eighteenth century, who, great though he was, if he had been here to-day would be looked upon by all parties as a most obtusate Tory, is a very large liberty indeed, and his change of mind is as swift as forked lightning.

Mr. TWEEDIE: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: I have the floor and my hon. friend can say what he has to say at some future time.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Red Deer has the floor and he cannot be interrupted unless he gives way.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: I was only illustrating one of the possible boomerangs that might result from this amendment of unfortunate strategy. I may mention something more before I am finished with what I have to say on that subject. What I do want to say is that while I would not go so far back as Edmund Burke, great as he was, for my political models, I have a great personal regard for old British constitutional methods, and my feeling would be that the recall upon which the people of this country might particularly rely would be the recall of a majority in a general election held under ordinary circumstances and in a general way. But there are exceptions, Mr. Chairman. I think it was because there was distinct ground for thinking that there were exceptions that I had pleasure in supporting the amendment of the hon. the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) at the beginning of this session. There are exceptions, and I am here to state that, great though the constitution may be and great though parliamentary institutions are, circumstances may get to such a pass in the history and in the life of a country that it is not only necessary to recall a member, but it is necessary to recall a Gov-