

not stand idly by and be gagged by a Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who has nothing but contempt for Parliament and who has said so. He calls parliamentarians "nobodies" and sees Parliament as a necessary evil while going on his merry way. He treats Parliament as a puppetmaster treats marionettes, and he has his own Pinocchio.

There are no marionettes on this side of the House. Where are the voices of protest in the government ranks? There has to be one person who will speak the truth. Have government backbenchers become the trained seals about which I spoke? Are they so browbeaten that they are afraid to speak out in defence of the freedom of this House?

● (2030)

If we lose freedom of speech, as we have started to lose freedom in our economy and as did Petrofina, we will lose individual freedom, because that is what happens when economic freedom is lost. If we lose freedom of speech by closure, the right to oppose, the right to criticize, the right to scrutinize public business and public accounts, what reason is there to sit in this House of Commons? What would Caesar have us become, eunuchs in his court? What would the emperor have us be? Spear carriers I suppose, strewing olive branches at his feet as he enters this chamber. Is the emperor afraid to be told he has no clothes? Is he afraid to meet Parliament face to face? Is he afraid to look us in the eye? Is he afraid to involve us in the process of developing progressive legislation which will advance the ideals and goals of this nation? Is the government reverting to the arrogance which dates back to the jackboot days of C. D. Howe and his "who's to stop us" statement?

I tell you Mr. Speaker, we cannot be stopped with closure. That statement was made when closure was invoked during the infamous pipeline debate. But today hon. members opposite are sitting with a comfortable majority. I for one refuse to stand silent and see the rights of Parliament abused, frustrated and strangled. I believe in open covenants, and I believe they should be arrived at openly. We, as elected Members of Parliament, hold a public trust. That trust is being abused when a parliamentary majority seeks to withhold the rights of the opposition minority. I refuse to worship at the throne of the emperor from Mount Royal who, in turn, worships at the throne of Castro, Galbraith, Mao and Lasky. Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, we are all commoners in this chamber, and let the right hon. member opposite not forget that.

I intended to rise in the debate and speak with pride on Bill C-59; not pride for that abominable piece of legislation but pride at being a member of the only truly national party of Canada, the only party which wants to preserve our federal Commonwealth status. In that bill, the government wants to borrow \$14 billion. Not only does the Grit government want to borrow that amount, but it wants to put an extra \$3 billion in the deficit kitty, which would not be repayable until March, 1982. The bill does not state what the interest rate will be, it does not state what the vehicle of borrowing will be, and it does not state from what country the government wishes to

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borrow. Why is that? Because it is ashamed; that is why it had to invoke closure.

Is the reasoning behind closure that we have an 83-cent dollar and our dollar being the measure of the trust and confidence which the world places in us, it would not be flattering to the government to admit that if the United States is the source of those funds, it would cost us 17 per cent more?

The harsh reality, the grim prospect, the very thought of borrowing \$14 billion is frightening. The figure of \$14 billion boggles the mind of most people, but not that of the fellows opposite. It should bring fear into the souls of the backbenchers opposite. It is a legacy of debt. I have a ten-year-old son, as do other hon. members here and as do other Canadians, and that is what we will leave them. What is the government's answer to that? Its answer is, "Don't talk about it, sweep it under the rug, hide it with closure".

An hon. Member: Why don't you listen over there?

Mr. Stewart: The government treats this bill as if it were a routine piece of legislation. Unrepentant, the government brings the bill forward unrevised, and it does so with closure; in other words, with fear, with trepidation. I just wonder how much people can take, especially hon. members on this side of the House who are barred from their democratic right to speak on this bill. Surely hon. members opposite feel some shame. The government is displaying colossal gall and unmitigated effrontery in asking Parliament to condone its profligate and reckless spending. I have to ask the government if it has lost touch with reality. The answer is yes. Does the government fully comprehend the magnitude of what it is asking Parliament to do? Yes it does, because it invoked closure. It understands what it is doing full well.

Has the government become so isolated and insular that it does not understand the ramifications of its massive borrowing? The United States understands it, and is starting to do something drastic about it. The deficit spending mentality is so ingrained in this government and has impressed itself so much on it that it no longer possesses the will or the desire to put the nation's finances in order and to forget about a constitution which has served us well for 130 years. That is why it rules by closure.

I shudder when I see a government rule by fiat and spend by fiat. All that fiscal and monetary policies mean to this government is another shift at the printing plant to roll off more dollars to cover deficit stacked upon deficit and bill upon bill. The term "balanced budget" is not in the government's glossary. The government would not know a balanced budget if it tripped over one and broke Pinocchio's nose.

A few years ago the Auditor General warned Parliament that financial controls did not exist and that the government was in trouble. I was not in Parliament when that happened, but I can conjure up the phantasm of the right hon. gentleman sitting opposite and shrugging, although he probably did not even read the Auditor General's report. He cannot shrug away the fact that he is bankrupting this nation, and people are starting to discover it quickly, as demonstrated by the 64 per