

leadership we have had in parliament on previous occasions—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: Now that we have responsible leadership under a very reasonable man, a man who has always been ready to work for parliament, I would have expected a far different approach from the other side.

Let us consider for a few moments the record of my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition. When the government put forward the omnibus bill amending the Criminal Code we asked that it be split into three parts. This was refused. But our leader went along with the party opposite and the N.D.P.—the Ralliement took a somewhat different view with regard to certain clauses of the bill—because we believe in reform and we thought there was a great deal in the bill which was commendable. We voted for the bill and we helped its passage through parliament. If the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) were here tonight he would confirm that both in this chamber and in the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs we were co-operative at every stage. We were co-operative during the report stage, on second reading and on third reading. There was no filibuster or hold up on our part.

• (9:20 p.m.)

Let me give one more example before I move to the rules themselves, the official languages bill. No one could have taken a more nationalistic or realistic approach in the interests of this nation than the leader of my party. In this regard he was supported by the leaders of the other opposition parties. We have co-operated with the government and tried to assist them to plan a timetable for getting legislation and other matters through this house. In spite of this, we are today faced with what I call a guillotine rule. What has brought about this new approach by the Liberal party?

Mr. Nowlan: Not new, it is old.

Mr. Woolliams: Well, it has been given new leadership. I should like to quote from the 1967 debates. An examination of the index to the debates reveals that the former minister of justice, the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of Canada, was not a man who made many speeches. One can say that he was conspicuous by his absence in this institution. After all, he was a newcomer.

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On the occasion when the opposition parties defeated a former government on a tax measure, he was asked several questions, one of them put by the then hon. member for Calgary North. The former member for Calgary North at that time asked why the minister of justice called the defeat of the government a technicality, and why the government did not resign according to the constitution of the country. I feel sorry for the president of the privy council, but I feel far more sorry, Mr. Speaker, for this newcomer to parliament who represents the riding of Grenville-Carleton, because he has been used as a government yo-yo. First of all, he thought he could move his committee report. Then he was told he could not, and then that he could after all. He should really thank us, because if the opposition had not won the day yesterday he could not have made the speech he did today.

Mr. Blair: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton is rising to a point of order.

Mr. Hees: Somebody must have pulled the strings.

Mr. Blair: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I mentioned my hon. friend had been to the same university as I. I should point out that he was not a graduate in history.

Some hon. Members: Yo-yo.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I will not deal with that point except to remind the members of the house that at university the hon. member led the Conservative party, but since then has become an opportunist and joined the Liberal party. I had the misfortune to sit under his leadership at university, and he was such an opportunist that that was the only time one could flush him out.

Let me go on and relate what the Prime Minister said. Replying to the then hon. member for Calgary North, the right hon. gentleman said: "We are masters in the house in the sense that we have to conduct the affairs of the government".

[*Translation*]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. Does the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) wish to rise on a question of privilege?