

*Redistribution*

So the discussion went merrily on.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Read the rest of it. It is of interest to the house.

**Mr. Fleming:** I am very happy to continue because it is the worst example of squirming and shilly-shallying that has been seen in this house for some time. How quickly the Minister of Finance repented him of his words! How quickly he showed his concern that he should have made such a blunder! How quickly he showed his regret that he should have joined the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) in exposing the cynical mind of the government, because this remark, "the public do not care", as applied to redistribution, will deserve to rank in history with that equally cynical and blundering remark made a little over a year ago by the Minister of Trade and Commerce when he said in this house: "If we wanted to get away with it who would stop us?"

**An hon. Member:** The Tories.

**Mr. Fleming:** These two remarks, Mr. Speaker, are of the same nature precisely. They are made of the same cloth; they are outpourings of the same mentality.

Here is a government which has convinced itself that it is absolute; that power belongs to it. It has long shown its contempt for the House of Commons and now it feels perfectly at liberty to show its contempt for the people. The people do not care, they say; and therefore in effect they say to themselves: Well, if we want to get away with it who is going to stop us? The people don't care; the opposition can't out-vote us; so we will go ahead and jolly well do what we like with this redistribution. We will put over such a gerrymander as will cut out of public life, if we can do so, some of the best men in the official opposition; and we will succeed in doing it and we will congratulate ourselves on having exercised our power.

**Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce):** I rise on a question of privilege. The Minister of Finance never said anything about a gerrymander as my hon. friend has stated.

**Mr. Fleming:** I did not say the Minister of Finance used the word "gerrymander". What I said was—

**Mr. Martin:** You do not know what you are saying.

**Mr. Graydon:** Yes, he does.

**Mr. Lennard:** A lot better than you do.

**Mr. Fleming:** The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker, has not had anything to do so far in this debate, and

[Mr. Fleming.]

it is just so hard for him to let a few pages of *Hansard* go by without the name of Mr. Martin on the record.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mutch:** You can understand his difficulty better than any of us. If it is true, you should know.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I believe that the house should now revert to the matter under discussion.

**Mr. Fleming:** I hope the Minister of National Health and Welfare will profitably take to himself that well-merited rebuke.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. So that there will be no misunderstanding, the remark I made was directed to all hon. members. There is a rule that on third reading the only matters that can be discussed are those that are contained in the bill.

**Mr. Graydon:** We knew whom you meant.

**Mr. Martin:** Mr. Speaker, I ask you if your remarks were not directed, as I am sure they were, to my hon. friend the loquacious member for Eglinton?

**Mr. Speaker:** My remarks were directed to no particular member.

**Mr. Graydon:** The minister is on the record at least.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Fleming:** I will proceed to read what the Minister of Finance said in his later interjections when he tried strenuously to repair the damage done by his first and frank remark.

**Mr. Abbott:** My hon. friend takes himself too seriously—far too seriously.

**Mr. Fleming:** Well, Mr. Speaker, here we have another interjection in the face of what you have said, and I shall say this in view of the further interjection from the Minister of Finance.

The minister has said: Don't take yourself so seriously.

**Mr. Abbott:** Too seriously.

**Mr. Fleming:** Well, now we have it straight and we are this time in agreement as to what the minister has said.

I hope that I do not take myself unduly seriously—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Fleming:**—but I do take seriously my responsibilities as a member of the house and I may say to my hon. and very good friend, the Minister of Finance, that in estimating