

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Nesbitt: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There are those in Canada who are complacent enough to believe that the expression, "It can't happen here" still applies in this country. I hope that after the activities of the government during the last couple of weeks, which reached their culmination in this morning's and this afternoon's naked display of force, which force was virtually used to destroy the effect of parliament in this country, anyone who had any doubts about the old expression, "It can't happen here", will have had those doubts completely dispelled. The government and the Prime Minister personally are going to have to take the responsibility for this evil behaviour, and that is the only word that can describe it.

A day or two ago I was endeavouring to point out to the government certain historical precedents to show that the dictatorial methods imposed by formerly democratic states for purposes of efficiency and expediency destroyed democratic government in those same democratic states. At that time I cited the instances of ancient Greece and Rome. Today I should like to use a more modern example, although in passing I should like to mention that similar incidents took place in the Italian city states of Venice and Florence in the days of the Renaissance, which states at one time had republican forms of government. I suppose, however, that the most familiar and possibly the most cogent historical precedent is that of Oliver Cromwell. As hon. members will recall, after Charles I had been gotten rid of in England and the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, took over, it was thought at that stage in England that there would be a new form of democratic government. However, during the session of what has been known as the long parliament the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, had a great deal of difficulty in getting along with his parliament. So in 1649 the first thing he did was to expel the Royalists and then expel the Presbyterians. After that the parliament was known as the rump parliament until its final dissolution in 1660. After 1649, Mr. Chairman, the Lord Protector, even when he had only his own followers in there, could not get along even with them, so finally, as hon. members will recall, in 1660, when the speaker was about to put the question, the Lord Protector, accompanied by soldiery marched into the chamber and with the now famous expression "Take away that bauble", pointing to the mace, dissolved the long parliament.

I think hon. members may well take a lesson from this very disagreeable historical example. We have already seen some instances rather similar to those which I have just

described take place in this very house. However, this government believes in being up to date. Oh yes; it certainly does! The Liberal government has put the jet-propelled engine of closure on its steam roller majority to speed the crushing of the opposition in this house.

The hon. member for Wellington South is the greatest living argument for mercy killing. The hon. member for Waterloo North—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Brown, Essex West): Order. I do not think the hon. member would like to have that statement stand on the record.

An hon. Member: It is true.

Mr. Fulton: Parliament has just been killed. What is the matter with it?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Brown, Essex West): I leave it to the hon. member himself as to whether or not he wants to withdraw it.

An hon. Member: He has it in his prepared text.

Mr. Nesbitt: Because of the interruptions by hon. members, including the hon. member for Wellington South (Mr. Hosking), the remark was made. Possibly it was a little bit strong and I will withdraw it at the moment. The hon. member for Waterloo North was apparently horrified a few days ago at the so-called guillotine cartoon that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* recently. Personally I think this cartoon was most appropriate. I feel that I have at least as much regard for those who died in the two world wars as has the hon. member for Waterloo North. I would ask hon. members to consider just why it was that they died in those two world wars. Just what was the reason that they died? Why did they go to those wars? I know we hear the old trite expression, which is a sad thing, namely that they went the first time to make the world safe for democracy and on the second occasion also. Whether or not we consider this expression to be trite, it is the truth. That is the reason a great many of us went there and that is the reason a great many did not come back. We now have the spectacle in this house of what we have seen during the last couple of weeks and today in particular. We have this spectacle in this chamber itself, in the very heart of parliamentary democracy.

What has happened in the last few days is only a culmination of what this government has been attempting to do ever since the mid-1940's. First we had government by order in council. That was repeated time without number despite the objections of the opposition. Then finally last year the Minister of Trade and Commerce attempted to bring in the notorious amendment to the Defence