

### Supply

That Speaker had his head chopped off up until about 1200 A.D. in the very civilized country called England. That is where supply came from.

This is the basis of Parliament. Though it is not the most exciting, sexy session of Parliament it is the basic session of Parliament.

I am glad to participate in that because I still believe that, even with all the imperfections and all the warts we have—because we do personify the people we represent, and certainly a lot of our constituents have warts, as do we—this is the highest institution in the land.

It is a strange place indeed. Just yesterday we had the courage in the Public Service pension legislation to force a vote on extending pension benefits to the gay community. That is certainly an objective of many members and it is an interesting debate. That came up for debate last night and was voted on last night. Those provisions were voted down.

Yet we evidently do not have the courage to force a vote or have members force a vote on our own pensions, with all of the problems that has caused the public domain.

There is this contradiction that many people are upset about. We seem to be so strong and courageous on certain things that are controversial, yet on other things that get right down to the nitty-gritty of our own work habits and our own emoluments we seem to be a little shy. I am really sad about that, but be that as it may we are still in supply.

I want to talk in the brief time that I have, having been fairly patient, basically not about the supply.

When talking about supply and the dollars involved in the bill that we are discussing, which affects all facets of the government, it is wide open season. It is open sesame. Anything is possible to say as long as it is in order.

That is what I am going to suggest, but still focus not on all the programs of government, not complain about the government I used to belong to because as I told the high school students and college students in my riding, there is not a party in this House of Commons or a party in the land that has all the answers to the challenge of government. We all think we have ideas but there is

always a blend between the black and the white, and that is a grey area.

I have heard some of protestations of righteous indignation because the government has not done the right thing and the opposition can do it better. I was in opposition for many years and thought the opposition would do better. Then we got in government and I found we were doing some of the things we complained about in opposition.

Around the mulberry bush it goes.

I am going to do something I have never done since I became a member. I am going to read a column because it is so well written that I certainly could not improve it. It is generally about the issues I want to talk about.

I am concerned, as are all members and all Canadians, and yet we are getting tired of this constitution topic. I understand the reality. There have to be conferences. There are now phone calls being made. Parliament very well may be met with a package deal that really has not been ventilated much in Parliament. Yes, it was ventilated across the country *ad nauseam* in a sense, but there are many of us in the House who still want to have a chance to make comments here. I am going to anticipate what I believe are one of the two biggest problems.

The Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs has been trying to do a good job. Quite frankly, the halo of unity and trying to come together and constitutional fatigue may be creating more problems that are simmering under the surface. The package I understand they are talking about has several ingredients that, frankly, have not been debated in this House of Commons and have not had that much debate in the country.

I am not talking about the Senate. I will mention the Senate in my closing remarks as you start to give me the high sign in the few moments I have. I am going to talk about something that is a little difficult to talk about. You raise the issue and people start to interpret and perhaps call you names. I am talking about the issue of the inherent right of the aboriginals to self-government.

That has blossomed very quickly in these constitutional discussions that have gone on in the last several weeks and several months. There was a report here from the minister several days ago. We are told in the press that