

Motion Respecting House Vote

ball was passed on to him and not to the Prime Minister. There are many more interesting statements which were made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), and if time permitted I would quote them. However, I should like to emphasize the fact that in bringing about the downfall of this government we have stopped the passage of innocuous legislation, such as Bill No. 186, which the labour people of this country have demanded should not be passed by this house.

Mr. Grégoire: No, that is wrong.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): We are hearing now from a member who holds the balance of power, but let me say that of late he has been upstaged.

What has been happening here since Friday has been a battle to save Pearson's pride, and nothing else. The government is trying to hang on to the Prime Minister, who does not deserve it. He has not shown the responsibility to the Canadian nation he claimed he would discharge, and I say again he has run away continually from this responsibility. What is most important to the people of Canada? Is it parliament, the Liberal party, the Liberal convention, or the Prime Minister? I say to you, sir, that this parliament, as all parliaments in a democracy, should be supreme, and if it does not continue to be supreme it is because of the gang over there; and I use the word "gang" advisedly. I know that at one time this word used in the house in connection with a commission was ruled out of order, but if anyone wishes to challenge the word "gang" or the word "syndicate", let him get up and challenge it. I say that members on the government side are just what I say they are, a gang, or one might even call them "syndicate operators".

We have been asked to vote confidence in the government. I wonder if the Canadian people have really looked at this government and at the individuals who make it up. Not long ago, I asked a question in the house in connection with the local situation at Sydney. What happened then proves that there is absolutely no unity in the Liberal party. The Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) answered me by saying the government would be foolish to make such plans, while at the same time his colleague, the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Sauvé) who was out in western Canada at the time spoke about government plans to phase out the Sydney steel operations. This was a direct contradiction of what the Minister of Industry said.

Then, moving a little further on, we used to see the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Laing) sitting next to the Secretary of State (Miss La-Marsh). Something happened there because they are no longer seatmates.

Mr. Laing: Nothing happened to me.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I am not sure. I would not say that halitosis had anything to do with it. This government is beginning to realize that halitosis is better than no breath at all.

Then we move further on and come to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp). What happened last Monday night was not of his doing. He was prodded into it by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer). I will get to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) in time. The Minister of Transport prodded the Minister of Finance into making the fatal mistake on Monday night. I understand it was the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) who blamed the Minister of Transport for prodding the Minister of Finance; and the Minister of Finance of course blamed everyone else, although it was he who put himself into this vulnerable position. It is very interesting to review the statements made by the Minister of Finance and the press releases on them. When the minister was asked whether anyone was to blame for what happened and whether the Minister of Transport prodded him into it, he did not confirm this. However, the accusation was in the question which was put to the minister, even though he did not confirm that there was any truth in it. So we can accept that the Minister of Finance thinks the Minister of Transport actually prodded him into doing it. The Minister of National Health and Welfare was prodded into voting on the bill. After all, they are all candidates for the same job.

Mr. Nielsen: In the meantime there was the Trois-Rivières incident.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I do not know much about the plane trip back from Trois-Rivières, but we can recall the developments following the plane trip back from Halifax, when the Prime Minister conveniently did some forgetting, which at that time got him into hot water. There is not too much difference between the two incidents. On that occasion he came very close to getting it in the neck. He has got it in the neck now, and let him take the consequences of it.