

*Procedure and Organization*

months have been attacked by the press. Following an invitation to the press some time ago to attend the Prime Ministers' Conference here, our Prime Minister told them to go home and take a bath. These suggestions would hardly endear him to members of parliament or the Canadian people. Such statements should not be made, and they do not become the Prime Minister of this country. Members are aware that these thoughtless, arrogant statements have dealt a serious blow to the reputation of this government. One cannot blame parliament for these statements and I do not think rule 75c will prevent the Prime Minister from making them. I am sure that if hon. members knew that 75c would have this result they would certainly give unanimous approval.

Members opposite know very well that the ramming of 75c down the throats of the opposition will not improve the reputation of the government or the Liberal party. I suggest to backbenchers on the government side that this is not an improvement to our rules. It will not affect them because very few of them speak. They should not forget, however, that in the near future they will be sitting on this side of the house, and that will be a different matter. They will then be objecting to this sort of rule. They will want a chance to say their little bit in opposition to legislation introduced by a new government.

I ask hon. members opposite to give serious consideration to the suggestion that 75c may be important to them, particularly when they sit on this side. Hon. members opposite who are in touch with their constituents know perfectly well that this rule is an unpopular one. It has been condemned by the press and I understand condemned recently by university students. They have circulated a petition throughout universities across Canada concerning this very obnoxious rule.

**An hon. Member:** Have you checked with your parish priest?

**Mr. Carter:** The hon. member has made his usual contribution from his seat. I should like to ask him to stand up and make a speech.

**Mr. McBride:** Would the hon. member permit a question? I should be interested to know how much the opposition had to pay the organizers of the university students to get the campaign going to which he has referred?

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

[Mr. Carter.]

**Mr. Carter:** Mr. Speaker, such a statement is a reflection upon the university communities in Canada and is unworthy of a member of this house. I do not think university students have to be bought or bribed.

**An hon. Member:** Especially by a so-called Christian.

**Mr. Carter:** They do not have to be bribed or bought in respect of what they feel is right. The hon. member may be that type of person, but I do not think those who belong to the university community are of the same type. They don't have to be paid to express their opinions in respect of what they believe. I cannot say the same thing about certain members on the other side of the house.

This government and the Prime Minister are obsessed with constitutional theories. Perhaps it is not known in Canada that these constitutional issues have been brought in as red herring, but that is the case. Canadians expected to be given the right to participate in the business of this nation. This promise was made. They desire to take part in finding the solutions to the serious problems which face this country. They were led to believe that they would get action from the government to solve problems of pollution, housing and poverty. So far there has been very little action.

Members on this side of the house in recent weeks have been trying to extract answers from the minister in charge of housing, but it has been like pulling teeth. We have tried to find out when we may expect a statement from this minister regarding the so-called guidelines on urban renewal. This statement was promised some months ago.

Constitutional issues have their place in parliament. There are many more important things in Canada at this time with which we should be concerned. We should not be wasting our time debating rule 75c. There are many more important things we should be discussing, including the wheat situation, the problems in respect of our fisheries, housing, poverty and pollution. Last fall we wasted weeks discussing a similar proposal. We are now wasting time discussing rule 75c when we should be devoting our time and energies to finding solutions to these other serious problems. These problems have been treated with nothing but indifference and contempt by the Prime Minister and his government.

Members on the other side must be aware of our role in NATO and the defence of North America. They must know that we are not