should a load factor enter into the distribution at that point? I might say this to the minister, Mr. Chairman. If he calculated the fares to be charged in the creation of Trans-Canada Air Lines on the same basis as he is doing here he would never have created the company because the load factor there would not have permitted him to do so.

Mr. Knight: It has been interesting to me, Mr. Chairman, to see the Minister of Trade and Commerce in his old position as a lecturer, and I hope that the classes he instructed before were more receptive of what he had to say than they were today.

Most of the arguments have not been advanced for and against what we consider to be an iniquitous proposition but the constituents here and there throughout the country like to have their own members express an opinion even if they must do something which I am not fond of doing, namely, repeat arguments which have already been advanced by other people. But they do say: "Yes, the man's party did say something about that or against that, but what did he say about it?"

Sir, never did I think when I was elected to parliament 11 years ago that I would have seen some of the turmoil, the anger and the consternation that I have seen in this house during the last three or four days, an institution which, temporarily at least, had passed completely from the control of the officers who preside over it; words of anger and bitter debate which appeared to have no end. That, of course, is a situation for which I can only blame the government that sits across the way. There was a loss of discipline and a loss of decorum which, to me, were deplorable. I almost said loss of debate and indeed that almost came about.

We are now in the position where we can debate, and to follow the precedent that has been set by other speakers I will speak generally on the topic because it has been wide open, as I see it. We are allowed to debate clause 4 and I think it is a reasonable question for me to ask the minister concerned, at what point is the axe next going to fall? Are we going to be allowed to debate clauses 5, 6 or 7? Well, government policy will be announced in due course. That is the phrase we have certainly heard before. If freedom of speech has not been totally denied, it certainly cannot be denied that freedom of speech has been curtailed.

We had the spectacle yesterday of the Prime Minister getting up and granting us a special dispensation, presumably out of the goodness of his heart. Sir, it was a humiliating situation to those who love the democratic procedure. Except for that, the Prime Minister has been almost silent. Let me say in all sincerity and honesty that I pity him in all this because I look upon him as a pawn of forces which he does not appear to recognize and which he perhaps does not or could not understand. It is peculiar that I say this. I readily admit that I could not understand them either, but I do understand something about the principles of democracy and how a democratic system works. The Prime Minister was treading upon dangerous ground when he put his stamp of approval upon the restriction of free speech in this house, because where freedom of speech is threatened liberty itself has begun to die. It has been really more in sadness than in anger that I have watched what has occurred during the last few days because I am a believer in democracy. I am also a believer in the rights of the majority, but the rights of the majority do not include the right to impose silence upon a minority either in this house or anywhere else.

Sir, I claim to be a patriotic Canadian. I love my country. I am proud of my country and I would like to be proud of my government. As I look across this house I say, "God help me, this is my government; I would like to be proud of it. And that is my Prime Minister". My country will never go back on me in the physical sense, but the government and the Prime Minister have done something to me in the last few days. I have not lost my trust in democracy nor have I lost my trust and belief in the democratic system, but I have lost some of my faith in the ability of this government to preserve them.

I have to refer to something which I would rather omit for the moment but I think I have time in which to deal with it. I want to refer to the speech of the hon. member for Macleod, a speech which I think shocked this house. In addition to saying we had lost the power to debate I was going to add that in view of the hon. member's speech we had lost something of the decency which we associate with this place. Here was a smearing process that would delight the heart of any McCarthy. Just because they disagreed with them the hon. member compared his opponents in this particular issue with the people who were walking up and down outside the house in that period. Well, there is no man in this house who can look me in the eye, and accuse me, my leader or any hon. member of this party of having communist leanings. In some places they get away with it. They get away with it in the country where people are sufficiently ignorant to be influenced by that sort of thing.

Here we have an alliance, which has been mentioned before, between my hon. friends