

05 L. M. Browne-Evans

**Speaker of the House:**

The honorable member from Devonshire North, Mrs. Browne-Evans.

[00:07]

**Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):**

Mr. Speaker, I would invite you, Mr. Speaker, to have, what should I say, vigilant control over this House, this morning, sir, especially, by those who do not support the amendment. So obsessed are they, they don't wish to hear [00:30] people, and there's been interpolation. I wish them to listen to how I phrase my objectives, in the motion move by the member from Sandys North, Mr. -- East, and I wish Mr. Speaker, no one can tell me that I'm speaking to why he should not move that motion. I may get around to it, by a lot of preamble,

(cheering, many voices)

but I have a right, I have a right to say [01:00] why I'm opposed to that motion, and why I will not be supporting that motion. OK? Now, the reason there -- and that's my legal interpretation, and anybody who says its wrong, Mr. Speaker, is out of order, on the floor besides yourself, OK?

(laughter, many voices)

Anybody else, Mr. Speaker, and I've already heard a [01:30] great lot of heckling from Hamilton East, Hamilton West, rather, (inaudible heckling) Hamilton West, and Smith, Smith South. Now, they're the noisy, loudest voices, louder than mine. Those two members ought to keep quiet, please, specifically the Minister, Mr. Woolridge and the Minister, Mr. Burgess, because I do wish to help to educate some people who apparently [02:00] need to be educated on this topic (inaudible heckling). Yes. Now, Mr. Speaker, it's regrettable, I heard one thing that the member from Hamilton -- from Pembroke East said, that a young person should help to decide these matters, but it would appear that this young man ought to have learned one thing, if you want to kill debate in Parliament, that is an archaic, old [02:30] rule, that was there in the days, let us say, when the oligarchy rules this chamber, and before we got democracy, OK? So, it would appear that history (inaudible heckling) -- we haven't learnt, Mr. Speaker, that you should allow people -- you see what I mean? That's what I was saying, I don't need that, Mr. Speaker. Whether we need him over that side, and I hope he never joins in the debate. [03:00] OK?

[03:01]

**Speaker of the House:**

Let's not bring him into the debate.

[03:03]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP) :**

All right, so --

[03:04]

(inaudible, hecklers)

**Speaker of the House:**

Order over here. Order!

[03:08]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP) :**

They're going to lengthen this --

[03:10]

**Speaker of the House:**

No, they're not.

[03:11]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP) :**

-- reason.

[03:12]

**Speaker of the House:**

No, they're not.

[03:13]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

Because I want it to be heard.

[03:15]

**Speaker of the House:**

Yeah, stick to the amendment.

[03:17]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

If we are to follow young people, one, first, I would wish he would have allowed --

[03:24]

**Speaker of the House:**

The honorable member.

[03:25]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

-- the honorable members would have allowed, democratically, us to speak [03:30] first, and then with his arms with his motion, his motion, his secret reference, he would have them stood up,

near the end of the day, and then moved his motion. That would have given the people's constituents a reason to know why they vote, and how they voted, and why. Now [04:00] I say this, because I am already the victim of something that happened, long before his time, feels like it was in '71, when, Mr. Speaker, one of your predecessors, I think it was Mr. Gutridge, but he wasn't the Speaker then, he was a devout Catholic, and very good to me as opposition leader. I got lots of privileges at the time, a new office, a parking space, but he had the misfortune (laughter, many voices) to rise very [04:30] early in debate, just as the young man has done today, and moved the motion, and the then-Speaker said, "Well, there could be no more debate, at least only on," you know, "the motion." And, many people did not see how they could speak on the motion, throughout (inaudible). And so, therefore, no one knew why people voted. I was one that voted to kill -- not to kill the debate. I believe in democra -- I'm never going to kill the debate, [05:00] even if I know everybody's against me, I wouldn't use that reference, OK? Now, therefore, Mr. Speaker, (inaudible heckling) in the report that is going down in history, and I had occasions to tell someone, and they looked it up today, and anybody that's here in the audience, can look at the journals of the House in 1971, and they will see that I voted against the six month hoist, but because we have no journals, [05:30]

because we weren't allowed to speak, no one knew why. So, I went down in history long ago as supporting the bill then, for homosexuals, or to (inaudible) it. Now, Mr. Speaker, today I will not be prohibited, after '71 to '90, (chuckles), I might not get another chance. (laughter, many voices)

[05:51]

**Speaker of the House:**

Yeah, might not. You might not even have the chance today.

[05:54]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, to say that this matter ought to be discussed, [06:00] this is why it should not be given the six month hoist, it ought to be discussed because it touches on human rights, and the day that a Parliament doesn't discuss human rights, is a black, sad day. (banging) The day that people are afraid to stand here, without any party line risks. This is what people who don't like party politics say, the rugged [06:30] individual days was the best there. Now, we've got an opportunity to give our individuals views, it's cut off. Now you see how people don't, are not consistent, not logical. If you want those days when we're not under any risk, (inaudible heckling) -- Mr. Barritt doesn't have the (inaudible).

[06:51]

**Speaker of the House:**

Honorable member.

[06:52]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

-- tied to -- honorable and learned. (noise, many voices)  
Trying to rip everybody in line, over here [07:00] Mr. [Moh?] doesn't have the reference. We could all speak by our consciences, and Mr. Speaker, my conscience has been with me for 66, almost 67 years (inaudible heckling), and Mr. Speaker, I have been guided by it, and my reputation stands on it, and I would say to everybody, Mr. Speaker, I am -- and I don't think my parents trained me to be a lawyer, not to read and to understand, but the Wolfenden Report, [07:30] was passed in the House of Commons, in England, and the House of Lords, in 1959, just four years after I was opposed to the bar. I have also seen, Mr. Speaker, just about everything else is in that report, and acted. The law of our diminished responsibility, psychological, different changes -- anybody who studied psychology, and calls [08:00] themselves psychologists, and cannot understand the development that has gone on in the whole sphere of psychology, and the development, and (inaudible) about

homosexuality, is burying their heads in the sand. But, Mr. Speaker, I don't mind people doing that, but I will not base on (inaudible) by anybody that's trying to judge me in my lifetime, as to my moral rights, my moral opinions, and customs. I was brought up in a [08:30] Christian home, (Many voices: *Hear, hear*) I have followed the Christian religion, I am, what the fundamentalists calls, "born-again," (Many voices: *hear, hear*) I know what's right from wrong, I know when a bill is right or wrong, and I do object to being, not sexually harassed, but harassed politically (inaudible heckling). And this is what has been going on -- I've been ready for Mr. Stubbs to bring this bill, so I can stop being harassed. I get it -- [09:00] I get a lot of literature prose, I got lecture before, I watch vigils, I watch prayer meetings, I go to church, I hear prayers, I attend the Baptist Church, and I think most of the people there would be against it, if you ever took a count, but as far as I'm concerned, Mr. -- I got elected by the constituents of Devonshire North, who knew me. I wasn't unknown. When I came into the South, I had a reputation for forthrightness, [09:30] I had a right for standing up for people, I had a reputation already for honesty and integrity, and I challenge anybody else to say, because they differ with me, that I have not all of those qualifications. And Mr. Speaker, when I feel we should debate this bill, so that we could get off of this statute book,

laws that were obviously introduced in the years when there were [10:00] some people who did not care about human rights, they were drafted by certain people -- I remember when I was told, the first law book I got, [Pa Deel?] drafted it himself. [Pa Deel?] happens to be the then-Attorney General, of (inaudible) Deel's, father, or grandfather, and I don't understand it, Mr. - somebody thinks these laws are sacrosanct, and we should keep them. There also were all sorts of discriminatory laws on the books, that the Progressive Labour Party has been fighting for, to remove, [10:30] throughout the world, it has taken forward thinkers, independent-minded people, to stand against things. And, Mr. Speaker, do not use the fact that religion comes into it, because religion has condoned everything you could think of, including slavery, massacre, burning at the stake. It is sad that a certain person bless troops before they went off in the Second World War, with Hitler. Now, I just know [11:00] what got enough, in the church, to pray about, and they should pray for people, but don't harass me or come into the political arena. This bill ought not to be [hoisted?], because, if you want to curse the Bible, he said, "Render unto Caesar that which it seizes." He didn't say harass Caesar's chapel, or his temple, he didn't say picket it, he didn't say harass the incumbents, he said, "Pray for them," [11:30] and this is what I invite Christians of the modern era, to pray for people that

they differ from, pray incessantly, but don't take on the political trappings of all the political movements. That's the problem in America, and I fear the fundamentalists, I fear the people like, you know, Robertson, and all those other kind of people, (inaudible) so you find a wrong. I fear all these people, you know, and you can go into South, and there's more Christians down there, white ones, [12:00] Mr. Speaker, that has their own churches, and we have their branches of them, in this country, but they do not believe in human rights. And, when I heard, in remarks, about my children, that I could not support the member on, because the member said he don't want his children brought up -- you know, I thought I was hearing the days, when I don't want my children to marry a black person (banging). I swore I heard, "I don't want my children going to schools with a white person." If that was the argument that the member could use, they were weak arguments [12:30] and the member is lacking when he talks about Dr. Stubbs' views of scientific one-way, but not the other, that was strictly an emotional speech. It's also a convenient speech for him to face

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[12:44]

**Speaker of the House:**

Honorable member.

[12:44]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP) :**

(inaudible), he knows, people, voters, that he knows. But, that's not the reason I would think why anybody would propose a motion. Of course, (inaudible) the motion. If you're a proponent of the motion, that would give you a decent argument, why should you support it? [13:00] And I am knocking down his argument, why I should support his motion, so a young man, who again is opposed, you know -- stop heckling in the background, Mr., Mr. (inaudible heckling). Now, let me tell you, a (inaudible) (inaudible heckling). Mr. Speaker --

[13:19]

**Speaker of the House:**

Order.

[13:20]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP) :**

-- some people in this House loves to quote Martin Luther, well let me say, I've been here, and I'm also seen the mountain top, and I want to tell some young members, that after [13:30] 30-something years in this Parliament, that I know, Mr. Speaker, when I'm being pressured, or when I'm being invited to do

something. I don't like the pressure that has been going on, and we witnessed, like the United Bermuda Party slip, like the BLP's disarray, where we headed, in '85, you know have the whole movement splitting up already. Did I say something about the [14:00] the Paul Vincent? Uh, Allen Vincent Smith Organization? Did the Salvation Army really need to get in it, or were they misled -- and it's confusion in the ranks already. Then we have the canon residency, when we all went to church, speaking on some, I guess it was indirectly (inaudible) Francis, rather than be vilified, as to what he was saying about (inaudible) from the book, and should be removed, but he didn't try to distance.

[14:30] Mr. Speaker, people must come out and be honest, (*hear, hear*). You know, voters just want members of Parliament in America, and everywhere, to be honest, to state their views, and I am disappointed that the member should get up here, and move that kind of motion so early, to cut peoples' discussion. Just about everybody wanted to talk, and to give their views, and it's regrettable that a member from this side of the House has to be used -- [15:00] is used in this way. (*inaudible heckling*) There's no side, but I still say (*inaudible heckling*). We could split (*inaudible*) if you like. (*inaudible heckling*) Mr. -- (*noise, many voices*) Yeah. Mr. Speaker, (*inaudible heckling*). [15:30] Mr. Speaker, I will not argue with my leader in public. (*chuckles*) (*noise, many voices*) [16:00]

Mr. Speaker, I don't understand why, while I'm addressing you --  
[16:29]

**Speaker of the House:**

Order.

[16:30]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

-- why we're having lessons in Parliamentary rules, while I'm  
addressing you. Let the members go outside and do it, then come  
back and take -- then come back, stand on their feet, and take a  
place of order, come on (banging). Now, Mr. Speaker -

[16:46]

**Speaker of the House:**

Just continue to speak to the amendment (inaudible).

[16:48]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

Thank you. I'm speaking to the amendment, and I feel it must be  
hurting a few people that I'm speaking some truth, so they're  
trying to pull out another rule to stop me stopping. Mr.  
Speaker, put the rule back away, [17:00] and face the truth.  
There's a phrase I almost feel like paraphrasing, "You can run,

but you cannot hide," right. Now, what you can say here, you can hide, but you're not running away from your conscience, and the conscience is that people should be allowed to express their conscience, on a conscience vote. What else are we supposed to do, if somebody's going to try to find some rule. We better change all the rules that prohibit democracy, we are champions -

- [17:30] there is the member, also trying to talk into your ear. Nobody was talking to you, when I began. (noise, many voices) I don't mind whether you're -- I deplore it, Mr. Speaker. (noise, many voices)

[17:42]

**Speaker of the House:**

(inaudible) stay with the amendment, stay with the amendment (inaudible).

[17:47]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

All right. Mr. Speaker, I feel that these should not support the amendment, and I trust the other people in this House [18:00] that agree with me. It matters not whether it's just Doctor Stubbs and myself that vote for it. I'm almost kind of proud, if it is so, because I know there's another person, I could look in the eye, that's got the guts of his conviction,

and to be let it known. (noise, many voices) But I just wish, Mr. Speaker, that we could have all the decks were cleared for this debate, and all the country is awaiting [18:30] I'm sure, that the country does not approve -- even those who win, you know, like women like a technicality, or rather than a (inaudible), I can go in court, and win a case by a technicality. I don't feel good. When I have met a person on the opposite side, and we have face-to-face met our (inaudible), and then you win, it's a great success. But those who win, must know, if it takes from '71 to '94, there will be [19:00] future generations. I had this to say about party politics, one thing, and I remember telling to Henry Tucker, in the past, when you killed off, or you didn't kill it off, but the pressure of politics, like it happened to Mr. George Smith in England, the pressure of bearing the burden of standard-bearers in this country, killed off a lot of people, like Doctor [Can?], Doctor Gordon, George [Rachtree?] and all the champion (inaudible), and when they [19:30] died, the movements died. I told him, as I stood down there in that corner -- made aware of the (inaudible), and Mr. Williams, the honorable member, sit. The one beautiful thing about us six MPs for the Progressive Labour Party, had to say it when he came 3-2, we had a split. One thing is that when we die, it will continue. I know that if there are people like Doctor Stubbs, and myself, when it's over,

[20:00], there is somebody else who will take up the baton, and try to remove from our books the inequities that the motion is endeavoring to kill today. The motion is endeavoring to kill the right to do in your own home, what you like. Answer to your God, but don't have to answer to the Grand (inaudible), or the Police, or anybody else, who wants to storm in there. There was a time, we used to talk about (inaudible) raids, and there was time when some police, like (inaudible) and a few more, [20:30] used to kick down doors. They didn't have any search warrant. People didn't know they had search warrants, and they used to storm into your houses. They still do, some places, some people say, and who wants to open people up to that inequity? And the fact that it's never happened, you should not wait for the first time it happens (Many voices: *hear, hear!*). The member who is in charge said, one of the reasons he has thought about it, and is not (inaudible), it's never been done that he could remember. But [21:00] why do we wait until somebody comes in, or she comes into our things, and then cry, she cheats! It's already done. We must, and I don't want to call it cheat, see, (laughter, many voices) I'm not going to, I can't call it sleep. I don't want to call -- nobody will say I called the police, today. She cheats! We mustn't allow it to happen (laughter, many voices) [21:30] Don't leave the door open, and then worry about it afterwards, and if it's on the books, when on the books long

ago, it's wrong. I've heard people say that -- I didn't hear the member in charge say that, and so therefore, that's not a reason to vote against, but because women, it's not an offense to women -- I don't follow that argument either, because two wrongs don't make a right, and as far as I'm concerned, the human species, [22:00] we are above animal species. God gave us a will, free choice, choice to do wrong, choice to accept his Word, choice to accept salvation, choice to refuse salvation. We had a member in this House, tonight, today, who prays to Muslims, as opposed to the Christians. We have a right of choice. We're not even getting our choice. Some people outside wish they could get a choice to speak. And this is sad, [22:30] and this is what's wrong with the whole thing, the choice, and it's serving the British Fundamental Law. (Inaudible) British law, and we are governed by a similar law, fundamental Bill of Rights, a man's house if his castle, a person's house, can't come in there unless you've got a warrant, unless you could be shot, killed. These are fundamental things I thought the member said he was going to address. By the way he started off, he was telling off the people in the audience [23:00] (inaudible heckling). No. He's -- well he's a, no his motion is what I'm dealing with, not the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His amendment, and he begins by castigating the people in the audience for not being up here all the time. What he want to

know, when they ain't never been up here for 30-something years, but they're here this time. So, he ended up saying he praises them for coming, but I don't see why he needed to berate them. But, that's a ploy [23:30] to sound like I'm on one side, then I flip over, and you heard some people say, "*Hear, hear, hear!*" And then when he flipped the other side, you know, and they went quiet, and the other side made some noise. No, the member is who opposes the motion has not done a good job, like the member is charge of the motion that he doesn't wish to discuss. The member in charge, as of this motion, has just done a useless, emotional -- and he, [24:00] he condemns the people that -- homophobia, homophobic.

[24:08]

**Speaker of the House:**

We heard this. We don't want to continue with that, just stick with the --

[24:11]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

Well, that was one of his reasons for his motion. Of course, that's his reason for his motion.

[24:16]

**Speaker of the House:**

I know, but you've done very well so far (inaudible) -

[24:18]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

I know, but I haven't touched - I haven't touched homophobic.

(laughter, many voices)

[24:22]

**Speaker of the House:**

No, I don't want you to get in that area. I don't want you to get into that. No, no, I don't want you to get into that area.

No.

[24:30]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

All right, I was just letting you know, I made (inaudible).

[24:33]

**Speaker of the House:**

I know, I know, (inaudible).

[24:36]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, so for those reasons, Mr. Speaker --

[24:40]

**Speaker of the House:**

Thank you.

[24:41]

**MRS. LOIS BROWNE-EVANS (PLP):**

Let me say that, anyone that is in this House, under this roof, outside of this House, I want them to know that I oppose the motion because it is a violation of anyone's fundamental rights [25:00] to do, to keep that law on the statute books. The examples given by the other side, is that laws are not inviolate. They are changed every day, and this one, obviously was made by someone not concerned about the human rights, and obviously we can't -- I will not support the amendment, and I trust that there are other people who will not support the amendment. Mr. Speaker, [25:30] I hope that you will give them the similar opportunities to be heard, like I have been heard.

[25:37]

**Speaker of the House:**

The honorable member from --

**End of File**