

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I resigned from a government once, and by going out I attained my end.

Mr. SPENCE: The hon. member is liable to do anything.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I accomplished my purpose and there are many members in the house who know what that purpose was. I attained my end and I stayed out. No one of the members of the cabinet can escape his responsibility; they cannot load the responsibility of this legislation on to the shoulders of the Prime Minister and escape their share. I say to the rearguard also who support the government—and there are a lot of good men in it too—they are responsible also. I happen to know that while some of us on this side may think we were the ones who induced the Prime Minister to back away last year from his horrible income tax proposals, it was the rank and file of the Tory party, I believe, who had a caucus that day who had a hand in it.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not the case.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I give them credit for doing so anyway. They did it once; why cannot they do it again? It was they who had to sit over there until they were blistered listening to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), while nearly all the members of the government were away off in their lairs having a comfortable time while the back benchers were standing the gaff. The private members opposite will have to assume their share of the responsibility for the introduction of a dictatorship in Canada at this time, and they cannot pass the buck on to the Prime Minister. I am not saying this to defend the Prime Minister; I am merely stating the fact. If the private members opposite think they are going to escape their share of responsibility, they have one more think to come. No one but the electors can take care of the situation; it has become so bad, so acute that that is the only redress.

I was going, as I said before, to make some suggestions. I am not going to say anything about the distribution of relief because no body of men can distribute such a vast amount of relief without making some mistakes. Many years ago I was engaged in similar work and I know the difficulties surrounding it. Therefore I refrain from making any criticism as to the distribution of so much for this man and so much for the other. I am not going to say anything about the matter, at least until it is all over, and then I shall want to know the facts before I make any complaints. I know, however, many people are burning

coal who never burnt a shovelful before in their lives. One cannot prevent little things like that from happening in such a vast undertaking. But I claim it is up to the government to explain why they got rid of the regular channels of distributing relief, namely, the rural municipalities, and selected an arbitrary bunch, a ninety per cent Tory organization that they have converted to their political use at this time. If there is an election next June, they can just touch a button, as already indicated, and the whole thing will operate as smooth as silk. My hon. friends opposite disclaim any politics in the matter, but they do not believe what they say. Where, under this act, do they get authority to take promissory notes, seed grain liens, except by some deceptive use, undreamed of a year ago, of this measure?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for forty minutes.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Monday, March 14, 1932

The house met at three o'clock.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1931-1932

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting further supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932, was presented by Hon. E. N. Rhodes (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the house and referred to the committee of supply.

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting further supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932, with respect to the Canadian National Steamships and the Maritime Freight Rates Act, was presented by Hon. E. N. Rhodes (Minister of Finance) read by Mr. Speaker to the house and referred to the committee on railways and shipping.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Bill No 31, respecting certain patents of Autographic Register Systems, Limited.—Mr. Anderson (Toronto-High Park).

Bill No. 32, respecting the Ottawa and New York Railway Company.—Mr. Shaver.

QUESTIONS

(Questions to be answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)