

Supply—National Defence

an enlarged artillery range and dispossess people, and then do it in this, what I call, underhand way—expropriate, set up an artillery range, and then tell the people they are in danger and must move out. I think that is a very poor method by which to deal with Canadian citizens. If I was one of those living there I would enter my protest as well; but I am doing it on their behalf. The *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph* has taken up the cudgels on behalf of these people with a very strong editorial in the February 17 issue of that paper, asking parliament to look at this problem. Mr. Chairman, you know where we stand on it. If the minister will take either one of the two courses I have suggested, we could settle it tonight. He still has an opportunity.

● (9:40 p.m.)

If he is not going to take any action but is going to think about it overnight that is fine, because we are not going to be frightened by people on the other side of the house.

Mr. Woolliams: Nor by the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Churchill: Nor will we be frightened by the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Woolliams: He has now left the chamber.

Mr. Churchill: He came in and said this was a farce. Surely it is not a farce when we are dealing with 25 families of Canadian citizens who are being dispossessed. Even if they were not Canadian citizens it would be appropriate for us to deal with a matter like this here in this chamber. However, these are Canadians of the fifth generation and are members of one of the founding races of this country.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: Now they are laughing at the Irish.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: I call upon every member of parliament with Irish blood in his veins to recognize that fact.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Churchill: It is all right to laugh at the English or the Scots, but do not laugh at the Irish or you will be in trouble. The members on the other side of this house are making a joke of this situation, but it is no joke. These families are Canadians of the fifth generation and are now being dispossessed in the middle of the twentieth century. This is a

shocking way in which to carry on. We often talk about human rights and are very often disturbed about people around the world who are attempting to gain their freedom and their liberty; yet this is the way Canada acts with regard to her own citizens.

Mr. Chairman, we have appealed to the two ministers involved and to the Prime Minister in regard to the crux of this matter; what more can we do?

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. Churchill: Some of the Grits over there say to sit down. They say let this pass. Those are the trained seals who take orders from above. Thank goodness there are some independents on this side of the house. Parliament exists for the purpose of defending these people.

Mr. Groos: Let us hear from some of the others.

Mr. Churchill: Would the hon. member like to speak for himself and say something on behalf of these 25 families. I will relinquish the floor to him if he has the courage to get up and speak.

Mr. Groos: Certainly, Mr. Chairman.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Groos: Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to say that in considering the attitude taken by hon. members opposite when we were considering the Columbia river development proposals which required the dispossession of some 500 families in the national interest, I find that attitude in strange contrast now when we are talking about the same sort of thing but where only 25 families must have their land expropriated in the national interest. We are now being told that this is a terrible thing to have done.

Mr. Herridge: As a member of the group which first raised this issue, let me say that we are certainly behind these appeals to the minister to reconsider the welfare of these 25 families. Mr. Chairman, I cannot help but remember that there were 500 families in my area who were being treated worse as a result of the Columbia river proposal, but what did they do to defend those 500 families? I think we should be somewhat consistent in our approach to life. Our good friends in the Progressive Conservative party did nothing to defend the rights of those 500 families who may have their lands expropriated, some of which were third generation Canadians.