

the Voice of Women. I have had telephone calls from sections of the New Democratic party who are of the opinion that the Leader of the Opposition should have the opportunity to outline in the house the foreign policy of his party prior to an election. These people are concerned about the war in Viet Nam. They are concerned about the policy his party would pursue in connection with NATO, NORAD and other international affairs. They believe that the Leader of the Opposition should have the opportunity to place on the record of the house the policy of his party in international affairs.

I have had telephone calls from persons who are very concerned that the bill increasing benefits for the unemployed should pass as soon as possible. I think we are pretty well along with that legislation. I have had telegrams from veterans to the effect that the defeat of the government at this time will mean they will not receive the 15 per cent increase in pensions. Some of them mention that this would be disastrous to many veterans, widows and their children. I assume, naturally, that any government that was elected would restore the 15 per cent increase but these men would have to wait until possibly late this fall, if there were an election in the near future, before they would receive the increase. A great number of veterans are looking forward to receiving the increase on April 1 next, retroactive to January 1 of this year.

I have had conversations with consumer groups who are looking forward to the early passage of the bill aimed at reducing the price of drugs. They are very interested in this matter. I received a telegram from the city of Trail signed by 29 people, a number of them well known Conservatives, some members of the Social Credit party and some members of this party.

**An hon. Member:** No Liberals?

**Mr. Herridge:** I did not see the names of any Liberals on the telegram—not that I would know them, anyway. The telegram urges members of parliament to get back to conducting the business of the nation as mature and responsible citizens. I have seen a telegram from Regina which reads as follows:

Disagree with Conservative and N.D.P. position on confidence motion. Is discrediting parliament. Monday night defeat was unfortunate mistake but should not force unwanted undesirable election

### *Motion Respecting House Vote*

through procedural technicalities. Be fair. Allow Liberals choose new leader then force election if considered desirable. We are N.D.P.

Clare V. Powell  
Barrett D. Halderman

In fairness I must say that I received a telegram from one provincial section of my riding urging me not to abstain from voting non-confidence in the Liberals, but when I get home they will understand the reason for my taking this position today. In fact they told me: "We know, anyway, that whatever you do it will be right, Bert."

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Herridge:** I must say that I have also received a good number of messages and telegrams from the rest of the riding to the contrary.

**Mr. Fane:** Did you have a visit from Paul Martin, too?

**Mr. Herridge:** No, Mr. Martin is not in the habit of visiting my office.

**An hon. Member:** How about the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh)?

**Mr. Herridge:** No, the Secretary of State has not been to my office.

**Miss LaMarsh:** Lately.

**Mr. Herridge:** No undue influence at all has been brought to bear on me. I have nothing to gain from taking this position. I am simply taking an objective point of view with respect to a serious situation that faces the Canadian people. I realize and respect the position taken by the Progressive Conservatives. I respect the opinion of my colleagues. They take their position as a result of firm convictions that the best thing to do is turn this government out immediately.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Speaker, I have brought to the attention of the house some of the facts that have been drawn to my attention by various means of communication. I urge that these facts be given serious consideration. If we were to have an election at this time the Canadian people would be placed in the position where the new leader of the Liberal party would not have had the opportunity to announce his policy and program before the election. In addition, the new leader of the Progressive Conservative party would not have had an opportunity to place the program