

ment. The greatest weapon we have to interrupt and suppress the illicit traffic in this most reprehensible drug is the diligence and honesty of domestic law enforcement, coupled with the most severe penalty for those who would trade in human life in this way for the sole motive of greed, profit and avarice.

A little more than a year ago, Mr. Speaker, we had a throne speech that marked the beginning of some 50 pieces of legislation. This is to be noted because all the pundits at that time were predicting that the government would last for only a matter of weeks, if not days. That session ended, having lasted 203 sitting days. Last week we had another throne speech. In the coming months we will be able to look back on this debate as the beginning of more progressive legislation as long as the majority of members continue to support good Liberal policies such as we have seen defined in the recent throne speech.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I was very interested in the remarks of the hon. member who just sat down because for the last two or three years I have been asking the government of Canada to appoint a royal commission to look into international crime, which includes to a large extent the importation into Canada of those dangerous drugs to which the hon. member referred. I hope that he will now become an ally. Up to now the government has paid little attention to a problem that is serious beyond words. At the same time, I want to say a word about the CBC commentator, Mrs. Trudel, who has dealt with this matter at length on her program. On one occasion last fall I heard her mention how widespread and open trafficking was in this immediate area. Apparently, as a consequence of what she said, the RCMP within the last two weeks picked up a large number of alleged wrongdoers.

At a time like this it is always difficult for one to find subjects on which to speak. The House is waiting for the final vote which will come at the end of this debate but which is of little consequence because, once the amendment of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition—not the official opposition but the opposition—has been turned down, we pass into an area of little or no interest.

I commend the government for its decision to endeavour to make Parliament more effective and representation more equal, for bringing about changes in redistribution so as to assure that large areas of our country with small populations will continue to enjoy a reasonable representation in the House of Commons. I brought this matter up originally, and all parts of the House responded with that degree of desirable co-operation which I have always found to be worthy of notice.

That brings me to this point, Mr. Speaker. Parliament, as operated today under the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), is not effective. It is a caricature of what it ought to be. The opposition should place before the people of Canada this fact: we will reform Parliament. We did that in 1956 and 1957. We brought about changes and the people of Canada understood what was happening, because before then the previous administration had been totally disregarding of any views expressed by members in other parts of the House.

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

Today two members, by way of privilege, raised the issue of questions asked in the House. I have been here for some time. You, Sir, are simply tied up by the rules, many of which were forced through under closure by the majority sitting opposite.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: One dare not challenge anything ministers say when they give their truncated answers because, as several hon. members have mentioned, by doing so one would introduce controversial matters. How do you answer controversial matters which may have arisen in a minister's statement except by following up with a supplementary question which may be controversial? What I am leading to is this: There must be a reform of our rules which, today, have placed Parliament in the position of being an adjunct, a necessary adjunct.

As for the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), the hon. member noted in the House of Commons for his wisdom and warmhearted personality, I have noticed lately that even his warmhearted personality has shown some signs of flagging. He is not in the position of being able to move amendments any more. He cannot do it. He is the authority in the NDP on amendments and on Parliament, but he dare not do anything. Why? Because, if he moved an amendment with the accustomed wisdom that he used in the past, the government would be defeated. It is difficult to express how much Parliament has lost in consequence of the present situation.

Does this House, as presently constituted, discharge its responsibilities? Have we any examination today of expenditures? There is virtually no examination. The No. 1 responsibility of Parliament is to look after supply. What has happened? I knew, when I was Prime Minister that ministers would be concerned about the fact that certain programs would be brought up in the House. You will always have that concern on the part of ministers. Today, you cannot bring those matters up, no matter how wasteful the expenditure or how unjust and improper. There can be no vote in the House of Commons on such items. Two years ago we were placed in the position of having to vote expenditures of \$19 billion between eight o'clock and one a.m. Those were fabulous expenditures. Do you mean to tell me that if we could deal with individual items the spendthrift proclivities of the Prime Minister would not receive attention?

● (1230)

If anybody wants any information on the subject of those expenditures, I will render the fullest answer. Not even King Farouk expended to the extent the Prime Minister is doing today on 24 Sussex Drive, his offices and his country place at Harrington Lake. Waste, waste, in the hundreds of thousands of dollars! What can you do? You complain, but nothing happens. Amazing waste! Amazing spendthrift expenditures are being made. They have been revealed by two hon. members, the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates) and the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt), but you might just as well spit at the moon to do anything effective regarding those expenditures. We have the highest taxation in Canada's history, the highest interest rates—