

Supply—Mr. McCleave

There is a great deal of support from the financial community for such a measure and the financial community thinks that this ought to be done. But there are those who fear such drastic action. I would suggest that rather than removing the ceiling entirely the interest ceiling should be raised possibly to 7 or 7½ per cent, and that the government should try that for a few years to see what the effect would be. The argument for removing the ceiling entirely is that competition will force down interest rates, at least in some segments of our economy. We might well consider this process of raising the ceiling 1 per cent or 1½ per cent and seeing what the effect will be before going all the way in the matter.

Nowadays we are hearing a great deal of talk about a medicare program, and we may have a chance to discuss this more fully in the very near future. However, I would suggest to the government that consideration be given to the inclusion of the cost of prescription drugs in any medicare plan that is brought forward. There are quite a number of other subjects that we could cover, Mr. Speaker, but there are other hon. members, no doubt, who have comments that they would like to make while the estimates are being introduced.

I feel that the part time farmers of this country particularly are entitled to a better break and I would urge the government to keep that matter in mind when they are setting up their budget for 1966-67.

● (6:50 p.m.)

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, this is a "re-maiden entry" into the House of Commons and, as I felt on the first occasion back in 1957, I enter the house once again still very much in awe and diffidence. Like the bride of the cannibal two things are possible. The bride hopes she accomplishes the first and pleases the cannibal; if not, the second course is too awful to contemplate.

[*Translation*]

Were I to make a third maiden speech in the house, I would like to be able to make it entirely in French.

[*English*]

My first words, Mr. Speaker, must be to congratulate you for your selection by this chamber as its presiding officer. I also wish to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairman of Committees. I think I express the views of all members when I say

[Mr. Thomas (Middlesex West).]

that the wisdom of our choice has been borne out even in the few days that we have been meeting.

Returning again after an absence of one parliament I should like to pay particular tribute to two of the great figures of the House of Commons who are with us no longer. These gentlemen were great figures not only in the physical sense of the word but in the qualities of gentlemanliness, ability to get along well in the House of Commons and their facility for bringing fine ideas forward. I refer to the late member for Nipissing, Mr. Garland, a member of the government in the last parliament, and the late George Nowlan from my own province of Nova Scotia.

May I make another personal reference to a man who sat in the last parliament, the former member for Halifax, Mr. John E. Lloyd, who was recently appointed to the National Harbours Board. I make, sir, no comment upon the appointment except to say that it was one affording personal pleasure to me for Mr Lloyd has given the last 25 years at least to public life and has put public life above his own business interests. Knowing how well he does when he becomes enthusiastic about a particular subject, I think he will truly make an excellent member of the National Harbours Board.

I think every parliament should try to leave its house in better order than the parliament that has gone before and in this regard I want to pay my tribute and respects in regard to the changes which have been brought about since I was here last in 1963. For example, there is the extension of the bilingual translation system to the upper seats in the public galleries which I think is a good step. I often wondered before how many people, on coming over from Hull, for example, and finding a debate in progress almost exclusively in the English language, could get any particular enjoyment or derive any education from the operations of the house. I think this is a step on which the government should be complimented.

Significant changes in the rules have also been brought about. There is a more businesslike appearance to the order paper with the addition on the second page thereof.

The "late, late show" at ten o'clock, which I gather is the irreverent but popular expression for the opportunity to debate a question raised with the minister responsible, is in my opinion another fine addition to our rules. I