

Mr. CLEAVER: I have only ten minutes. I will gladly answer any questions tomorrow, but I want to take my ten minutes tonight.

Mr. ABBOTT: We have had a series of forty-minute speeches from the opposition.

Mr. CLEAVER: Hon. members opposite have had the whole evening, and this is my first chance to take part in the debate.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Will the hon. member permit a question?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. CLEAVER: I have already given my answer.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has stated already that he requests no interruptions at this time. Therefore, under the rules he should not be interrupted.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): He is wiser than I thought.

Mr. CLEAVER: When I am through I will gladly answer any questions any member of the opposition would like to ask. On December 5, in discussing the business of the house, the Prime Minister suggested:

The government would have preferred to have had the debate on the address left over for some weeks . . .

Mr. FULTON: What page?

Mr. CLEAVER: Page 3 of *Hansard*.

. . . to be resumed after particular measures we have met together to consider immediately have been dealt with. I understand, however, that the leaders of the parties opposite prefer that they at least be given the opportunity to speak immediately on the address.

Mr. MANROSS: Nothing there about taking money out of the pockets of the people.

Mr. CLEAVER: Just be patient. Then the leader of the opposition spoke, and gave his stand in regard to that suggestion. Bless you, if the constitution had been infringed in any manner, if our rights under the constitution had been trampled underfoot, as we are given to understand tonight, surely at least a dozen members of the opposition would have raised the constitutional question on the very day the house met.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Did I not raise it at that time?

Mr. CLEAVER: I say you did not.

Mr. FLEMING: The leader of the opposition did.

Mr. CLEAVER: The tax was imposed on November 17. The house met on December 5. Not one member of the opposition raised this wonderful constitutional question.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): The leader of the opposition raised it. Where were you?

Mr. CLEAVER: I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that they did not think of it until they found they could not attack the bill on its merits, so they had to scare up another issue.

I should now like to read to these hon. gentlemen opposite what their leader said.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Read what he said about the constitution, at page 5 of *Hansard*.

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. CLEAVER: At page 4—

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Read what he said about the constitution.

Mr. ABBOTT: Too many leaders.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I think all hon. members will agree that the hon. member who has the floor should not continuously be interrupted.

Mr. CLEAVER: Mr. Chairman, when they feel and look so foolish, I really do not blame them. They have my sympathy. Here is what their leader said to the house, at page 4.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Read page 5.

Mr. CLEAVER: Following the Prime Minister, he said:

It is suggested that the measures which are now before us are urgent.

And this is what the leader of the opposition goes on to say:

Well, Mr. Speaker, the matters with which they deal are urgent, but I suggest with all deference that the measures themselves are not urgent.

Then he goes on to say that he wants the time of the house taken up with the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. And if my hon. friends want the reference for that, I will give it to them. And he went on to tell us how mad the farmers were, and a whole lot of other things; nothing about this terrible crime committed against the constitution.

Mr. HAZEN: Read the last paragraph.

Mr. CLEAVER: I will have read enough when I am through to satisfy all of you.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. Some hon. members desire that page 5 be read, but they will have an opportunity to read it if they wish. I would suggest that they should not interrupt the hon. member for Halton.

An hon. MEMBER: Eleven o'clock.

Mr. CLEAVER: Not only was the leader of the opposition content with urging that we should go on with the debate on the address,