

will do something. I hope also that he will be able to convince the minister responsible for ARDA to work more seriously.

● (9:30 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, I did not have a chance to say anything in the Throne Speech debate so may I take this opportunity, sir, of congratulating you on your appointment to your high office and, as has been expressed so frequently before, we all know you will fill your assignment with honour and adequacy.

Earlier today the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) pointed out the difference in the attitude of the Liberal party when they were in the position that we are now. In 1962 and 1963 when they were in opposition and we were in government they were obstructionists. They did not co-operate in any way. But as the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre said today we, the present opposition, are going out of our way to be co-operative in an effort to make parliament work in spite of the inadequacies and fumbling of the government. We are today in effect extending the Throne Speech debate.

The hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Naserden) has spoken about the small businessman as being the forgotten man. There was nothing in the Throne Speech to indicate any hope for the small businessman. When we were in government we took at least two important steps to encourage the small businessman, the backbone of the country, to help put him in a more competitive position.

There is another group that in reference to the present government I would call the forgotten people of Canada. When I first heard the Throne Speech in the other place I listened with interest to see what there might be in it to give encouragement and hope to the veterans of Canada. Part of the speech was in French which, unfortunately, I do not understand. I subsequently read and reread the Throne Speech but found there wasn't one single word, not even a passing reference, to the veterans of Canada. This, Mr. Speaker, is typical of the attitude of the present government toward those worthy people who fought for Canada in the last two world wars.

I say it is typical of the attitude of this government because I call to mind when the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Teillet) in 1964 announced the policy of the government with regard to the transfer of jurisdiction over veterans hospitals to local authorities, his

*Supply—Mr. Chatterton*

announcement was made at 2.30 in the afternoon. He had an appointment at three thirty or four o'clock that same afternoon with the veterans organizations from various parts of Canada, but he made the announcement before he met those organizations.

To refresh my mind I referred today to the minutes of the standing committee on veterans affairs of 1964, volume 1 of the minutes of the proceedings and evidence, dated Tuesday, September 29, 1964. At that time we asked the minister when he proposed to introduce amendments to existing veterans legislation, and on many occasions during that hearing of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs he said he felt sure and confident that the amendments to the various pieces of legislation would be introduced in the house before the end of 1964. Well, Mr. Speaker, it was within the last four days of the last parliament that the minister introduced four pieces of legislation.

The two most important of those four were the amendments to the Veterans Land Act and to the War Veterans Allowance Act. There was a strong feeling among the members of our party that, as has been the standing practice regarding legislation introduced by our government, all veterans legislation should be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. There was not any particular urgency to refer the War Veterans Allowance Act to the standing committee because the increases had already been implemented some time previously.

● (9:40 p.m.)

In any event, this legislation was introduced three days before the end of last session. When we asked the minister if he would agree to referring these pieces of legislation to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs on the understanding that we would pass that legislation in the last few days, he agreed. I shall not quote him exactly, but I want to refer you to his statement made before the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs and again as recorded at page 2971 of *Hansard* for June 28, 1965. I hope the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Teillet) will recognize the promise he made at that time, that these two pieces of legislation, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Veterans Land Act, which were amended on June 28, 1965, would be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs at its next sitting.