

Business of the House

questioned by the Minister of Veterans Affairs. There is the record. There is the quotation, and we ask the hon. gentleman to live up to the commitment given a year ago.

Amendment (Mr. Argue) negatived: Yeas, 7; nays, 110.

The Chairman: I declare the amendment lost.

Mr. Winch: Under this vote, which concerns all departments of government, and with the Minister of Finance asking for one sixth of the estimates for the coming year, there is one phase in particular which must, I think, be discussed and understood before the vote is approved with regard to the Department of External Affairs.

The Department of External Affairs is one of the most important departments of the government. It is a department which is the voice of Canada outside our country. Within the last few days a situation has occurred which is so disturbing, and whose implications are so great, that the position of the Department of External Affairs not only should be known but must be known before this motion is passed. I refer to the apartheid situation in South Africa.

I am proud to have been born an Englishman, proud to be a Canadian, proud to be a member of the British commonwealth, and because of this I think we have to accept the responsibilities of our birth, our citizenship, and our membership in the commonwealth. We in Canada have a responsibility not only to the white people within the commonwealth but to the hundreds of millions who are not of our colour. I believe we all feel in this party that before approval is given to the vote of the Department of External Affairs there must be a more definite, more militant and more explanatory statement by the government as to what

position, if any, it intends to take with regard to giving leadership in a situation which is so volatile that it could mean a revolution in the Afro-Asian countries.

May I call it ten o'clock and move the adjournment?

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Chevrier: May I inquire what the business is for tomorrow? The leader of the house has already indicated what we will be doing on Monday. I wonder if he could tell the house what the business will be prior to budget day, March 31? That is for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. Churchill: I would gladly have given a forecast of the business for next week, and would do so now if we could get some clear indication as to what progress we are likely to make this week. But I confess that at the moment I am not able to state more than I announced last night. We have three items here, interim supply, which we were discussing today, the final supplementary estimates, and the resolution dealing with federal-provincial tax-sharing arrangements, which should receive urgent treatment by the House of Commons for the orderly dispatch of the business of the country.

Tomorrow we shall carry on with the order of business that I outlined last night, and if we do not finish interim supply in good time I may have to ask the house to drop that subject and deal with the final supplementary estimates in order that the various payments which have to be made to officials serving the government and the people of Canada can be made promptly, as is the habit, every month.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.