

*Supply—Justice*

It is not our fault that there has been delay in this matter. The Prime Minister in the month of June, at the time of the adjournment of the house to the fall, stated that we would be back in September. He changed his mind. He saw a majority as a result of an election and he called the election. These estimates would have been passed in the regular manner, had it not been for the precipitate way in which an election was called.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Now, I want to offer a suggestion in a spirit of co-operation. We have covered some 15 departments, I think. In order to assure that supply will be available, we are prepared immediately to give consent to the introduction of the necessary appropriation bill, give first, second and third readings forthwith then, so far as the other departments are concerned, they can be dealt with next week. We have done everything to bring about a full examination. The house has sat long hours, over and above the added hours that we are now sitting compared with the hours of sitting in previous sessions. If the government is desirous of getting a bill through, so that royal assent can be given, then on behalf of the opposition I ask for the introduction of such a bill. We will immediately give it our support. I hope hon. members in other parties in the house will join in that, so there will be no question of supply drying up over the week end.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Chairman, I did not desire to speak further on the justice estimates this afternoon. I had determined not to rise unless I could see that justice was not going to be done. I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister upon his action and for his announcement of this afternoon. There was a remark passed here this afternoon upon which I wish to comment and I wish to do so immediately.

The hon. member for Lapointe made a statement that there were certain people in the House of Commons carrying on a vendetta against French speaking ministers. I regret that such a statement was ever made because I do not believe such a situation exists. I regret that a French speaking member has made it. I should like to emphasize this point, that when the cabinet gives a pension to Messrs. Belec and Poitras, after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police found against them, then I for one want to see that an Anglo-Saxon gets a pension when another tribunal has found against him.

**Mr. Lewis:** I do not know whether Mr. Spencer is an Anglo-Saxon, or a Buddhist or

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

from Africa or from Timbuctu. I, for one, strongly object to the kind of differentiation which was made both by the hon. member for Lapointe and the hon. member for York-Humber. May I say also that I think of the Minister of Justice as English speaking. He speaks as fluently as any person named Smith or Smyth or what have you.

**Mr. Herridge:** A wonderful fellow.

**Mr. Lewis:** I join the right hon. Leader of the Opposition in expressing pleasure at the fact that the position taken by members of parliament has enabled the Prime Minister to change the position which the government had formerly taken and to do a measure of justice to Victor Spencer. The right hon. gentleman was good enough to suggest that I should be at the extension of the telephone when the Prime Minister speaks to Mr. Spencer. I appreciate the invitation, but—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Wire tapping is against the law.

**Mr. Lewis:** That is right, wire tapping is against the law. I do not accept the invitation, with great respect to the Prime Minister, first because Canada would be in an awful state if this parliament could not accept what the Prime Minister of the country says he heard over the telephone. I am not going to monitor him.

I do say, Mr. Chairman, very seriously that when the Prime Minister speaks to Mr. Spencer, Mr. Spencer ought to have beside him his counsel and John Laxton, whom I have asked to enter the picture. I see the Minister of Justice nodding his head. Can I assume that that is not only an agreement by him but an undertaking by him that that will be made possible?

**Mr. Cardin:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I am quite sure the right hon. Prime Minister would not object to that at all. As a matter of fact, Mr. Spencer has had legal counsel from Mr. Rankin for quite some time, and according to the report we had from the hon. member it appears that Mr. Spencer and Mr. Laxton get along extremely well. I am quite sure the Prime Minister will not have any objection at all if both of these gentlemen are present.

**Mr. Lewis:** I wanted that because I wanted Mr. Spencer to get any advice he may want to obtain when the Prime Minister speaks to him.

The second thing I want—