

The Address—Mr. Rooney

the previous speakers who have congratulated the mover of the address (Mr. Cauchon) and the seconder (Mr. Simmons) on the splendid way in which they have fulfilled the task assigned to them.

I am taking the liberty of bringing before parliament the urgent necessity of having this house look into the matter of a five-day week for all bank staffs in Canada. When I was associated with the firm of Clarkson, Gordon and Dilworth, chartered accountants in Toronto, I had the honour of being associated with the audit of the Dominion bank, Imperial bank, bank of Toronto and the old Standard bank. Through this association I met many bank officials and staff, and I know the wonderful work they do every day for Canada. We take it for granted that the banks are there and we forget the staffs who look after us with a smile. But suppose the staff was not there—and that is what is going to happen if something is not done to remedy their working hours.

I remember a surprise audit some years ago on one of the banks on New Year's eve. I grabbed a small cage, not knowing it was the clearing cage. I worked until 2 a.m. and felt sorry for myself. I forgot, however, that after I left the staff were still there to clear up. This was some years ago. The bank staffs were among the forgotten then and they are among the forgotten now.

The senior officials who have been through this experience are not complaining but they are worrying about who are going to take their places, as young people will not work in banks under present-day working conditions. Let us do something now to preserve our high standard of banking which the world admires.

On May 8, 1950, as reported at page 2258 of *Hansard*, I asked the following questions:

I wish to direct a question to the Acting Minister of National Revenue. Will the acting minister give consideration to the abolition of the sales tax on cigarettes and tobacco sold to veterans in military hospitals . . .

I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Will he give consideration to the abolition of the sales tax on materials which patients in the veterans hospitals purchase for occupational therapy and handicraft work, on which these patients make a few dollars by personal sales.

Once again I am bringing this matter to the attention of the government, hoping that something will be done in the matter, as I believe the boys are highly deserving of this consideration.

I thank the house for allowing me to make these remarks tonight.

On motion of Mr. Hees the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Tomorrow we will take up the motion of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) to set up a committee to examine defence expenditures. I understand that this will be a short debate; but if it were not concluded at five o'clock we would adjourn it and take up the resolution in the name of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to set up the agricultural products board. Hon. members heard the minister, in his speech tonight, state that he had to leave Ottawa in the near future. When we have disposed of those two resolutions, we will take up the resolution of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg) concerning the Government Annuities Act.

Mr. Fair: When is prorogation coming?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Not before December 15.

Mr. Fair: I thought it was coming tomorrow night.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Next we will take the resolution of the Secretary of State with regard to the Public Printing and Stationery Act.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to the order of the house passed on November 2, 1951.