

Motion Respecting House Vote

with party programming or general policy but involves a question of strategy or generalship in the art of political warfare. That is what we are engaged in at the present time.

No one can condone the mismanagement of the present government. I fully realize we cannot blame this government for all the circles of inflation. All the bankers of the North American continent know that this inflationary period is primarily the result of the war in Viet Nam. The United States economy is carrying on in a war-oriented atmosphere without those controls which were available during the two previous wars in which the United States fought. As I see the present situation it is one in which tactics are being used to persuade the Canadian people that the government should be defeated now.

There is a great deal about this situation which concerns me, and I am treating this matter of a strictly non-partisan basis. Strong views are held in respect of both sides of this question. As a member who has had continuous service in this house since 1945 I have considered this question carefully and have come to the firm conviction that an immediate dissolution of parliament would not be in the best interests of this country or the Canadian people. It was with pleasure that I noted in the last few days a partial restoration of the spirit of fair play and the sense of humour which are usual in this house. I suppose it is correct to say that the steam has gone out of this debate, since everyone now knows the government will be sustained.

I have a great deal of respect for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and I was interested to hear him say, "In the name of God, go". I believe he was quoting Cromwell but he did not carry this to its logical conclusion. When Cromwell was telling the government to go he was almost threatening assassination if they did not go. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition did not mean that.

My position is simply this. The first necessity is for the government to deal as soon as possible with important and urgent legislation of direct concern to the people, such as revisions to the National Housing Act and amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act to increase benefits to the unemployed. I have received a number of telephone calls in this regard from union members. Another important matter involves amendments to the Patent Act and the Trade Marks Act. A number of consumers are very concerned in this regard and are anxious to see this bill go through because of potential reductions in the

[Mr. Herridge.]

price of drugs in this country following the passage of this legislation introduced by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Turner).

● (4:50 p.m.)

Many people are very interested in the supplementary estimates which will provide for the payment of a 15 per cent increase in disability pensions from the first of this year. I have received a good number of telegrams and telephone calls about that matter and I want to tell the house what I told my boys in Kootenay West. I said: "As far as I am concerned, you can depend on me."

Then there are the amendments to the Criminal Code, if it is possible to deal with those before an adjournment. A number of people are concerned about that matter.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): What about Bill C-186?

Mr. Herridge: I think that will disappear this session. A number of people who have talked to me are very concerned about amendments to various sections of the Criminal Code. They are very much in favour of the general spirit and principle of the amendments to the Criminal Code but in a few cases amendments were suggested by rod and gun clubs, wildlife federations and so on. Suggestions have also been made to me in respect of the lotteries section of the Criminal Code. However, in each case these people emphasized their support for the general principle of the amendments to the code.

I believe we must provide time for the Liberal party to select a new leader before an election campaign if we are not to have complete chaos in this country. In my opinion, to run a leadership race and an election campaign at the same time would make a farce of the voters' right to assess the qualities of the new Liberal leader before the people of Canada go to the polls. As a result of telephone calls, telegrams, letters and conversations I have had with a number of people I find that this opinion is held by many Canadians. Not all the people know all the facts but I have had enough information from people I represent, from people in British Columbia and people in other provinces, to indicate that they support this point of view.

For instance, I have had telegrams and telephone calls from organizations such as the Fellowship of Reconciliation which are very concerned about international affairs. I have had telephone calls from ladies interested in