

Supply—National Defence

father before that. How can a few thousand dollars make up for the loss of all these memories!"

Then, as I said this afternoon, there is the editorial headed "Army Takeover Spells End For A Proud, Old Village". This editorial concludes with these words:

Surely, somebody at Ottawa must care.

I say, Mr. Chairman, surely they should. That is why I come to the Prime Minister and ask him this question. Over the years we have not always agreed on things, but we at least agree that when things are wrong they should be rectified. I cannot get anywhere and my hon. friend for Winnipeg South Centre cannot get anywhere with these ministers. These men just say, "This is what you are going to get," to these 25 Irish families, "because we decide it". I am making an appeal to the Prime Minister just as did the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. The matter is before the Prime Minister. Why should these pioneer Canadians whose families have been resident here for generations be told, "There you go. Out you go. Down you go. As far as we are concerned, we give you no consideration".

This situation cannot be allowed to continue. We want nothing excepting justice and fairness. I thought when we raised this matter we would immediately get results. All we hear from the associate minister is that these people will receive compensation. They are not seeking compensation; they are seeking justice and that is what we are asking for on their behalf. I make an appeal to the Prime Minister. I am not going to be brushed aside any longer by these obviously diaphanous undertakings. We want to know, as the *Quebec Chronicle* asks, if there is someone at Ottawa who cares.

● (8:40 p.m.)

I thought there may be some reason that we could not understand which might be advanced. The minister quite frankly gave his views and said there would be some little saving. We have never used this before for mortar purposes. I ask, then, why now? Last night the minister was casting aspersions on Sir Sam Hughes. I want to tell you that Sir Sam Hughes brought about the greatest congregation in Valcartier in 1914 that existed in any part of the empire in that day outside of the United Kingdom. They came from all parts of Canada, and they have been in Valcartier since. Surely, in 1966, these people are not to be treated as chattels, to be pushed around by ministers, departmental officials or

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

army officers who place a higher value on saving a few dollars by moving a small number of these men who were in this camp.

I intend to find out whether or not human values take second place to administrative dictation, and that is what has happened here. Nobody goes to see them. They complain, they write letters and they receive no response except the kind of letter I quoted a moment ago. Nobody goes out to see them. After all, what are 25 families among 20 million people? Parliament cannot condone this kind of thing. I make an appeal to the Prime Minister because our concern all over the world is for every type of person who receives unjust consideration. Let us now, for once, give to Canadians the same consideration that we invariably evince for people in other parts of the world. These Canadians are entitled to consideration.

[Translation]

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Mr. Chairman, I have right here the blues on my last statement—not the first, because I made one before we adjourned for dinner—in reply to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill).

And I quote that statement literally:

I reminded the hon. member that I had already spoken to these parties, that my officials had started negotiations with them—

It is not true that no one went to see them.

—and that, since that time, I had heard no more about the matter, but that I was willing to look into the whole matter once more with a view to finding an adequate solution—

I even used the word "equitable",

—for these people.

I am most willing to start over again.

Need I say more, Mr. Chairman, I wonder what those words mean. Is the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) the only one really interested in the fate of those people? Do people think, for instance, that all those private property expropriations are made coldly, over the heads of everybody, without any consideration for special cases?

I have the greatest respect for the people of Shannon and what they stand for in Canada. They made representations to the department and we did everything in our power to try and comply with their legitimate wishes.

A new problem came up and, as I said, we are prepared to start all over again. What more can we do? I do not think anything more can be expected of a minister who administers his department in the best interest of the country and its people.