

Interim Supply

have used this time with the full knowledge of what is happening. This is far from a filibuster, because we are using the time of the house to which we are entitled. The minister has again conveyed a wrong impression to this House of Commons and the public of this country. We are entitled to 30 days for consideration of the main estimates including interim supply. If we choose to use that time on interim supply rather than on the estimates of some other department, that is our business.

It is my hope that those who are interested in the situation will now understand my correction of the minister's misleading statement regarding what we have been doing by discussing these subject matters on interim supply. I could go on, but I wish to give other members an opportunity to delve into this very fascinating subject of money hidden away but suddenly discovered by this special private eye, the Minister of National Revenue. He is away ahead of James Bond in this regard. Apparently he got his computers working and, to the great delight of the government, discovered all sorts of money—millions—hidden away which would save the hide of the Prime Minister who is being pressed by the Minister of National Defence to support his resistance to the reasonable request of the opposition to have this nefarious unification bill transferred to the committee on national defence before it is agreed to in principle on second reading.

The Minister of National Revenue has saved the Prime Minister. I hope in the course of saving him he has not sacrificed himself. I hope we can get a report from the Auditor General as to whether or not the guillotine should be rolled out to deal with this minister.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, before the next member speaks I should like to direct a question to the previous speaker. Would you answer one question?

Mr. Churchill: I would be glad to answer a question, coming from you.

Mr. Walker: Thank you very much. I am wondering whether you agree with the principle behind the bill introduced to the house today by your colleague, the hon. member for Carleton, whereby the right of a civil servant to his pay cheque would become statutory rather than subject to the whim of this house?

Mr. Churchill: I think that is a very good suggestion which deserves the serious consideration of this house. I do not like to see salaries and wages of individuals interfered

with because of a controversy in the House of Commons. Actually, I suggested certain phraseology which the hon. member for Carleton readily accepted. He differs from other hon. members opposite in that he accepts suggestions readily. I hope his bill receives careful consideration.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Chairman, I did not object in any way to yielding the floor for that question any more than we in this party have objected to yielding the floor since Tuesday of last week. We have adopted that attitude for a very special reason. We absolutely refuse to become involved in a disgraceful episode such as that witnessed last Wednesday and Thursday in this house when a ferocious battle took place between the government and the official opposition during which they stood toe to toe and eye to eye to pound each other. The weapons they had in their hands were the pay cheques of civil servants.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Certainly.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Will the hon. member ascertain for himself that according to the ratio of members in this house, his party has used up a larger percentage of the time than members of this party?

Mr. Martin (Timmins): I will be glad to check those figures for the hon. member. This is my second speech during this debate, but the hon. member I believe has made three or four speeches. No member of this party spoke on Wednesday or Thursday of last week.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member has suggested that I have made three or four speeches during the debate on interim supply. I have made two speeches, not three or four. Let me remind him that there are a number of members of this party who have not spoken during this debate, yet he is speaking for the second time.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): I do not wish to become involved in a frivolous discussion with the hon. member. The fact remains that no member of this party made a speech on either Wednesday or Thursday of last week. It was my hope that following the letdown on Thursday night, as a result of the Prime Minister's announcement, and the foolish