

Electoral Boundaries Commission

The hon. gentleman says there are matters of urgency. I should point out that this is the 59th sitting day. During that period we have spent 22 days on supplementary estimates, two days on main estimates, eight days on the speech from the throne, two days on a supply motion and only 23 days on legislation.

Mr. Pickersgill: Which is a lot of time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A most unusual situation has developed. We have had arguments over and over again on the question of supply, not original supply but supplementary.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the Prime Minister permit me to put a question about this?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes.

Mr. Pickersgill: Surely the Prime Minister would not say that the \$40 million acreage payment was not an original piece of supply or that the emergency assistance for the fishermen of Newfoundland was not an original piece of supply? A lot of the supply was not supplementary in the ordinary sense, but was new business.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): It is still business of the house.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, very little time was taken on the question of the \$40 million grant. We have spent 22 days on supplementary estimates. As I have said on a number of occasions we used to be criticized when we sat in opposition for holding up progress, but in a period of five years we spent only nine days on supplementary estimates.

Mr. Pickersgill: But the supplementaries of this government are as much this year as in that full five year period.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman again interrupts.

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, I gave the figures the other day.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman is merely engaging in an exercise in futility. I am pointing out this fact. I was trying to be helpful. I thought if this resolution passed we could then have the legislation before us. However, I am in the hands of the house. If we are not going to be able to pass the resolution and get the legislation before us then, of course, the responsibility is not that of the government.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is exactly where the responsibility lies. The responsibility rests with the government, not with the opposition.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, Mr. Chairman, if one looks at the record—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Do not lose your temper.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would say to the hon. gentleman that he is frustrated.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Do not make these charges.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Let me say to the hon. member for Essex East that his entire attitude in recent weeks has been one of deep frustration over the fact that he does not occupy the position he would like to.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: There is no point of order.

Mr. Pickersgill: There is a question of privilege; a personal attack.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege.

The Chairman: Order. I notice at the present time that the clock says five o'clock. According to the rules of the house, so that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business, pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15, it is my duty to rise, report progress and request leave to sit again later this day or at the next sitting of the house as the case may be.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I rose on a question of privilege and a question of privilege is always heard forthwith.

The Chairman: Order. I am afraid the hon. member will either have to raise his question of privilege when the Speaker is in the chair or else raise it when the committee sits again; but at the moment I must report progress.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege which also involves a point of order—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I am not seeking to interrupt the hon. member.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I rose on a question of privilege. If I cannot speak, the Prime Minister cannot. Surely he must not be given a preference. The Prime Minister has made a statement—

Mr. Jones: The Prime Minister is endeavouring to help the hon. member.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am rising to give assistance to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I am attempting to allow the hon. member to raise this imaginary question of privilege of his.