

Interim Supply

has been condoned in this house, is a shameful thing and should not be supported by any party. It is a challenge to our democratic process. I can tell hon. members who are shaking their heads that some of the Conservatives in my riding, and in other places, have criticized this attitude.

In recent days hon. gentlemen opposite have shown that they feel the Conservatives should be using the machinery of government, not so much in the interests of the ordinary people of this country, but to manipulate things to further their own political ends. For this, and other reasons—

Mr. Valade: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member who has the floor has imputed some dishonest motives to the members of this house. I think that is quite improper and he should correct his attitude.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Chairman, I said the government was endeavouring to use the machinery of government for its own political ends. I repeat that statement and I believe it is correct. My reasons for saying it has been placed on the record this afternoon. I refer to the use of P.F.A.A. inspectors who were told they must do political work in Saskatchewan; the use of an airplane of the Department of Transport for a junket for Conservative members; the assertion to the press, "We are going to give you a political blood test before we give you any public information", and now Conservative headquarters in Saskatchewan has the blessing of hon. members opposite in its endeavour to use its enumerators in the last election to inform on their neighbours. I suggest that is a condemnation of this government.

The Deputy Chairman: I think the hon. member for Vegreville has a question.

Mr. Fane: I should like the hon. member for Assiniboia to put on the record the name of the person to whom that letter was written, the letter from which he quoted.

Mr. Argue: I have no intention of informing on any particular person so that action may be taken against that person by the Conservative party. However, according to the terms of this letter itself, it went out to every single enumerator in the province of Saskatchewan. My hon. friend can obtain their names, because that is public information.

Mr. Nowlan: The hon. member knows the rules of this house and he knows that when he quotes from a letter or any document it should be tabled. My hon. friend has been putting on the record more political clap-trap in the last half hour than we have heard

[Mr. Argue.]

in a week. Certainly, he should not be allowed to hide behind this anonymity.

Mr. Pickersgill: I want to say a word about this phony point of order raised by the minister.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am speaking to a point of order.

The Deputy Chairman: I believe the hon. gentleman is not obliged to put on the table a private document.

Mr. Nowlan: If he quotes from it he is.

Mr. Argue: I quoted it all; it is all on *Hansard*.

The Deputy Chairman: I think the hon. member is not obliged to put a private letter on the table. The hon. member for Fraser Valley.

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Assiniboia has made certain accusations, and amongst those accusations was one to the effect this letter went out to every enumerator in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Argue: That is what it says.

Mr. Nasserden: I want to deny that. I want to say that not one of these letters went out in the Rosthern constituency which I represent. So far as I know, no such letter has been circulated in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Argue: This letter is all over Saskatchewan. I have a copy of it in my hand and the letter itself says it went out to all enumerators, and that it is going out to each poll in the province of Saskatchewan. It is signed by Lawson W. Procter, provincial organizer.

The Deputy Chairman: Order; if all hon. members agree, we will recognize now the hon. member for Fraser Valley.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, in the discussions that have taken place we gave the assurance that if the debate were to be concluded immediately we would not have any further speakers from this group. I should like to say we have a number who are very anxious to take part in this debate. As I have said, we were ready to forgo that privilege at the moment, but in view of the fact other members from other groups are proposing to carry on the debate, then we feel we ought to participate.

In rising to take part in the debate, Mr. Chairman, I should like the committee to consider for a few minutes a matter that has been under discussion on different occasions and which has to do with agriculture.