

Supply—Privy Council

The Clerk of the Privy Council, who is charged with responsibility for this matter, pointed out that in circumstances such as a possible nuclear attack it would be necessary to disperse the government as well as disperse parliament so that there would not be a target presented to any potential enemy. However, if of course it takes 23 or 24 minutes to get the proclamation signed—and elsewhere during the committee proceedings the clerk had indicated that a missile attack might take 20 minutes and would not be preceded by a mass of planes and I.C.B.M.'s whereby we would have intelligence that an attack was coming—then we could not get on a war footing. The Clerk of the Privy Council knows what is going to happen, but even with parliament sitting it would take five or ten minutes beyond that safety factor of 20 minutes to get the proclamation signed because it is necessary that there be some legislative authority for the government to act.

I suppose the reason why this house has not had another committee set up this session is because of the deepening threat over Berlin last summer and fall when the government thought it might be necessary to have the war emergency powers which the last government required to use in a national emergency. I suppose the Prime Minister thought that trying to marry a horse to a cow, which is what we were trying to do in this committee by saying that in an emergency the state must be paramount and on the other hand a private individual's rights are paramount, then this philosophical discussion would have to remain until such time as there was no emergency.

If by reason of the fact, as the clerk said, that this declaration was certified by the Great Seal and signed by His Excellency, I would suggest to the committee that at that time we would be on a war footing in this country, but I would like to know what makes the Prime Minister and the executive branch think this.

Recently we had a second Tocsin exercise, and under the E.M.O. a great deal of money was spent which had already been voted by this house for the purpose, among others, of protecting the executive branch. No one would deny that it would be absolute anarchy to have an attack come and have the cabinet, who must decide the policy of the country, live in a place where they would be blown up. If that happened there would be complete and utter chaos.

We have read speculation in the press, indeed it is more than speculation, that there is a point to which the members of the cabinet will be taken. It has been referred to as the "Dief Bunker" among other things,

and ostensibly it must be somewhere in the Ottawa area. It was a great shock, however, to everyone in the country when Tocsin II took place when the Prime Minister, who is the Prime Minister to direct any operations and direct emergency measures, is not in this special place built at the cost of the taxpayers but is instead sitting with his dog on his lap and his wife's hand in his hand, in his own home.

Mr. Pallett: On a point of order, this is just another illustration of the type of thing that the Liberals are building up—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is not a point of order.

Mr. Pallett: I have sat peacefully—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): On a point of order—

Mr. Jones: The parliamentary secretary is on a point of order already.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the parliamentary secretary rising on a point of order?

Mr. Pallett: Yes, I am. I sat and listened with—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): On a point of order, he is not stating his point of order. This is a speech.

The Deputy Chairman: I have no way of knowing whether or not the hon. parliamentary secretary is stating a point of order until I hear him out.

Mr. Pallett: Mr. Chairman, I sat and listened patiently to this debate. The particulars of the item under consideration refer to informational publications and the debate has ranged far wide of that. I think the committee appreciated your general attitude of permitting a broadening of debate, but I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that the type of speech that is presently being made by the hon. member for Niagara Falls is entering into personal attack, for which the Liberal party is now becoming quite famous.

Miss LaMarsh: On a point of order—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Pallett: It has extended beyond—

Miss LaMarsh: On a point of privilege—

Mr. Pallett: —beyond the rules of the house that have permitted a fairly wide debate on this limited item.

Miss LaMarsh: I attempted to rise on a point of privilege which the Chair apparently did not hear. I made no personal attack and I resent the Prime Minister's assistant saying so. I made an attack on the office of the Prime Minister by saying it was not in the