

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

decide whether there was a leader who could command a majority and the party now forming the government could have been replaced without an election. The person who had shown he could command a majority—

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Gardiner: —at a time when the governor would have to make his choice would be entitled to replace the person who could not command a majority. The leader of that party moving want of confidence would have said, in view of the votes taken in this house, that his party had a majority. The Governor General would say, I must therefore call on him. When the leader of the Conservative party assumed the responsibility of taking over the government of this country, as he did on June 21, he also assumed the responsibility, when the day has arrived that he can go no further in carrying on that government, of saying, because he is in the position where he does not command a majority of the members in this house, he is through.

There is no other way in which he could be absolutely certain of that fact, other than when a vote is taken on a matter of this kind. No vote has been taken, and I understand from the way things are forming up around me at the present moment, that one will not be taken but something is going to happen. When this thing which is going to happen, whatever it is, and if it is dissolution and we go to the country, I want to say to the leader of the government that he has had no right given to him in so far as any action in this house is concerned for the action contemplated at the present time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Gardiner: If he thinks that having had the support of the Liberal party on every occasion which a vote on a motion of non-confidence was taken, he can now go to the country and say he is doing so because his government is not getting the support of the members of this house, he is going to have to take another look at the people of this country.

Mr. Parkes: We are anxious to do so.

Mr. Gardiner: He may find that when he says he is going to the country because he wants to accomplish all these things that were promised during the election and that it was said, if his party was put into power, would be done—

An hon. Member: And we have done them.

Mr. Gardiner: I would remind him that they were kept in power and they have not done them.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: We have done too many things to suit you. You do not like it.

Mr. Gardiner: If he is going to go to the country and say, "no one is helping us and we want you to put us back into power so that we can do all these things which we promised to do in the last election", then there are going to be a lot of surprised fellows over there on the other side of the house.

Some hon. Members: We will still be sitting here.

Mr. Gardiner: When the Minister of Finance got on his feet a few moments ago the first remark he made was that the nerves of some people on this side of the house seemed rather frayed and as a result they were taking certain actions. Ever since I was a small boy I have heard people say that when your nerves are frayed, the first thing you do is to go up in the air. Well, that is what the leader of the government did today. This action he is going to take—and I am not in his confidence as to what that action will be—must have been given just about the same amount of thought as the words which he used during the election. He did not go very far towards carrying out these ideas.

I am certain that the right hon. gentleman did not really know until very recently what he was going to do today, and I am not too sure he knows even yet. He could not have consulted many people about it, because no one else seemed to know what he was going to do, or when he was going to do it, and since he found it necessary to take an aeroplane it may be, though I do not know how high up he went, that he intended to follow that Sputnik which was shot up into the air yesterday and which is now circling the world. He may have been doing that. I do not know. But in any case he did the usual thing that people do when they are nervous—he shot up into the air. Judging by the fact that one of the ministers who accompanied the Prime Minister returned to this chamber some time ago, that 'plane must have been back for some time. At last, the hon. gentleman is here in his place, but he still does not seem to have made up his mind to do whatever it is he may have in mind to do.

It is now five minutes to six, and with the house closing at six o'clock there is very little time left to him in which to say anything about it; and in that short space of time I should like to be able to say to him that he had better be able to show very plainly