

*Supply—Transport*

not going to say any more except that this doctrine is the doctrine of those who would control parliament, who would permit themselves to be considered as being set apart, and it is a denial indeed of the whole principle of parliamentary discussion.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Chairman, may I ask the right hon. gentleman a question? He said a moment ago that I had indicated that we should adopt a congressional system. Where did the right hon. gentleman find that in the text of what I said?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** If it was not to be adopted, Mr. Chairman, why was it talked about?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The Prime Minister can laugh. This is the way all these things have started on the part of this government. The Prime Minister has asked me what is wrong with talking about it. I know the progress that has been made on this first anniversary of the flag. First the Young Liberals said we should have a new flag without the Union Jack thereon.

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There is one applauder, Mr. Chairman.

**An hon. Member:** It is your flag too.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Then the next step was a recommendation by the Young Liberals as to what should be done. On Friday and Saturday last the discussion culminated around the step that has been spoken about often by the hon. member for Lotbinière. There was discussion whether the time has not come to abolish the Queen in her capacity as Queen of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is the way these things start.

**Mr. Pearson:** So we must not talk about it.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Oh, Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Prime Minister was pleased with that resolution.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Leader of the Opposition but at this time we are discussing the estimates of the Department of Transport.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**The Deputy Chairman:** We have heard different expressions of opinion on the work of parliament and I think we should return to the discussion of the estimates of the Department of Transport.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, I am always one of those who want to conform.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It was only under the provocation of questioning that I raised this matter. If it had not been for the Prime Minister stepping in and saying what he did say I would not have raised this subject. Of course, I did not mean to do so; all I wanted to do was to point to the interpretation apparently to be placed on such remarks.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the right hon. gentleman has begun discussing this subject perhaps you would give him a little leeway in order that he may say a word or two about the recognition of our national flag on this first anniversary of its acceptance.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** If I did, Mr. Chairman, my remarks would certainly not qualify under a discussion of the estimates of the Department of Transport, although they might carry me a long way. However, I was dealing with the interesting way in which these things are brought about, first by laying a foundation such as the Prime Minister did last night and then ultimately these things that are simply loose, idle and fragmentary words become basic principles. What was said last night reveals that the Prime Minister's attitude is that we are too prone to examine, that we should not have government required to answer but should follow the American system whereby the executive branch is removed from the legislative and is able, as the Prime Minister said, to carry on for four years regardless of what it does.

I think you will agree, Mr. Chairman, that the examination of these estimates has been very careful. The scrutiny of the estimates of the Department of Transport has been of a general nature but very helpful. Many suggestions have been made. We want now to go to another department but there is one thing I emphasize, namely, that we have not forgotten channel 3. I shall return to that matter in order to secure answers from the Minister of Transport who is usually able to give full, complete, even though unsatisfactory, answers to questions that are put.

I start with something with which I think the minister will agree. I am not certain that the matter comes entirely within his jurisdiction. As a matter of fact, it is both federal and provincial. I refer to the need of a national effort, led by federal and provincial