

*Motion Respecting House Vote*

this motion will be voting for the increase which is coming.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Canadians are facing the highest cost of living in their history and the highest rate of inflation. Prices continue to climb. But the government is not concerned about these things. What they are concerned about is preserving their gluttonous desire for power.

I say to the government: If you get away with this you have virtually made sure that if you choose to stay in for the full five years you can do so, no matter what the people think; all you have to do is get defeated and then say the next day, "This is an awful thing; just when we were ready to attack these big problems we were interrupted."

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** They sit over there trying to blame somebody now. I saw the Minister of Finance and the leader of the house sitting opposite. The house leader knew what was going on. At least, if his eyes gave any indication he was fearful. But the Minister of Finance took the attitude: Let's get going; let's get this vote over on a Monday night.

I give the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) an opportunity to deny that he did not try to prevent that vote. But the Minister of Finance had an appointment somewhere—where, I don't know; where, I don't care—and when he has an appointment, what should hold a vote back?

The vote was called and hon. members over there ran in pell-mell. Now they say: "We were caught; we were trapped; we were innocent lambs who walked into a trap. What a preposterous defence. They created the trap themselves. People ask for bread at reasonable prices together with all their other normal requirements and the government gives them a 5 per cent surtax which rests on the average person, since the limitation is \$600. Farmers' markets are falling off, farm prices are relatively down, unemployment is mounting. But just as in 1957, when we warned the government for months in advance, no action has been taken. Then at a time like this members opposite mouth decayed platitudes about their belief in the supremacy of parliament. You do not like this institution or you would not permit this crime against it.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There you sit in all your greatness, knowing that whatever the feelings of the people of Canada may be you are there. I do not like to use a commonplace expression, but the amount of wailing that has gone on since your defeat indicates that crybabies still exist. Members over there say: Give us another chance; we were taken unaware; we wanted the vote, but don't blame us. Mr. Speaker, in these days of computers even ministers of finance do not need to be able to count.

The government whip is a very hard-working whip. I have told him that personally and I say it publicly. But on his small shoulders condemnation is now being heaped because he dared to carry out the wishes of the Minister of Finance. That is hardly what one might call cricket. The government wants a second chance. To do what? To bring in a new bill to impose higher taxation. They never did cut expenditure as they should have done. I should be fair to the Postmaster General (Mr. Côté). I have a personal admiration for him and always did have. However, I feel that when he and the other ministers went to sleep on that increase in the postage last fall it was the first time in history that the people have been saved from taxation as a result of the dormant condition of a government.

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

• (4:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What does the government intend to do? While all these problems face the nation they spend their time undermining our monarchy. They have chiselled away, removing one vestige after another. I do not blame the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) for laughing, because he thinks all the Liberals are with him now. They had a vote in the city of Montreal at the Liberal meeting there and they came out in favour of abolition. It is the right of any political party to do as it will, but is that the viewpoint of the government? One of those who voted for its abolition was the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Pelletier), Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. And what about the Minister of Justice (Mr. Trudeau)? I am sorry he is not here; of course he has other things to do. After all, is not a time like this when conditions are what they are, the proper time to bring in legislation regarding those things that up to the present time have been considered as wrongs against the state? What did the Minister of Justice say? He was asked why he did not vote and he said, "Well, I did not think it was important