

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

the individual in the house who can command a majority and only the individual in the house who can command a majority. It does not matter whether he heads any party or whether he does not. Under our institutions of government, parties are formed only for the purpose of making it possible to have a government that can carry on for four or five years or, in other words, so that we can have a stable government. The people did not make a decision that made that result possible on June 10.

So there had to be some consideration given to it and some discussion of the matter. In spite of some of the things that have been said since that time, I want to say now—and I do not think anyone will ever be able to contradict what I am about to say and base that contradiction on constitutional arguments—that there is only one way in which a Governor General can act, and that is on the advice of his prime minister. I want to say further that if the prime minister of the day had said “Well, we are going to carry on for a while”—the Governor General would have accepted that, but that was not said, and there are certain reasons why it was not said.

The leader of the C.C.F. party on the day after the election—on the 11th day of June—said very distinctly to all the people of this country, over the air and through the press, that he was prepared to support a government that would be formed by the leader of the Conservative party. The leader of the Social Credit group took a similar position, although there was a difference in their respective positions. The leader of the C.C.F. party said in effect that the only person he would support as prime minister in this house was the leader of the Conservative party,—or if he did not say that definitely, he certainly left that inference. The leader of the Social Credit group however made it very clear that which ever party undertook to form a government they would give them the chance to show their wares in this house before that group voted want of confidence.

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

**Mr. Gardiner:** But there was a difference between the position taken by the C.C.F. and Social Credit, and after both of these parties had made these statements, the leader of the second largest group in the house, the prime minister, made a statement to the press and over the air in which he indicated that if the leader of the Conservative party was prepared to take charge of the government, his party would be prepared to give the necessary support in order to do the things that were essential to be done as a result

of what had happened during the election campaign. The leader of the Conservative party became Prime Minister on that understanding.

We came into the house on that understanding. On the basis I have outlined, of course, the Governor General called upon the leader of the Conservative party to form the government, but, if on the first occasion when we had come into the house—as has been suggested by the Minister of Finance this afternoon—we had voted the government out of office, and the three groups voting together could have done so—

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

**Mr. Gardiner:** If we had joined together, as has been suggested we should have done, and voted them out of office, I do not think the people of this country would have thought that we in the three groups had carried out an undertaking which had been given under the unusual circumstances which existed following that election.

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

**Mr. Gardiner:** So we did carry along throughout the period down to the present day. It has been said, and in fact it was said by the deputy leader of the C.C.F. a few moments ago, that on all but one occasion they had voted for the want of confidence motions. I want to say to him that if every one of the groups in this house, other than the government party, had followed the same course which his party has followed we would have all broken the confidence which we tried to give to the people of this country when we told them we were going to assist the government to carry on for a reasonable length of time. However, we did go on with our undertaking, right through, and my hon. friends opposite like to speak of the motion made a week ago Monday as a silly motion. The deputy leader of the C.C.F. party apparently agrees with them.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I do.

**Mr. Gardiner:** However, I want to say to my hon. friends opposite that there is a possibility that that motion was—

**An hon. Member:** Silly.

**Mr. Gardiner:**—the only kind which could have been moved whether or not it was put in the exact language.

It is the governor who would have to make a decision if we had voted against the party now in power. He would have to decide whether there was a leader in the house who could form a government which would command a majority and if so he would have to