

matter which apparently is of no interest to the government now in office.

● (1510)

There is a long list again. I am reminded of the report of the public accounts committee today. The Conservative government established a special committee to look into the very serious problem of cost overruns. That was a committee which would have allowed full public discussion of that important public question which this government has abandoned. It has ditched that idea. I note with interest the unanimous report of the public accounts committee of this House of Commons which was brought down today. It recommended again explicitly that the committee on cost overruns which we established, which this government abandoned, should be established again and established immediately. Certainly that is a view which this whole party supports, as well as being the unanimous position of the public accounts committee of the House of Commons.

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

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Clark:** I have to draw the attention of the President of the Privy Council to the fact that, though a number of bills have been passed by the Canadian Parliament, several others mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, and others proposed by ministers during the debate on the Speech from the Throne, have yet to be introduced. We were promised amendments to the legislation on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; we have yet to see them. Proposals were made on setting up a Crown corporation for exporting agricultural products; no bills have been introduced. Other legislation was promised by the government which, to date, has not yet been introduced in the House of Commons.

[*English*]

I must say one thing about one piece of legislation that was brought in yesterday, and I will say it in a complimentary way. I am very pleased by what I have seen. While I have not had an opportunity to review the freedom of information law tabled yesterday by the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox), I think it is also true to say that there is no doubt in the world that that freedom of information bill would not have been introduced by this government in this Parliament had it not been for the work, through several Parliaments, by the former member of Parliament for Peace River, Mr. Ged Baldwin—

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

**Mr. Clark:**—and the presentation as a priority measure of a freedom of information bill in the name of my colleague, the House leader of the official opposition, the then president of the privy council, namely, the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker).

### *Summer Recess*

There is one other matter on which I must comment, and perhaps I will return to it a little later on in my remarks, Mr. Speaker. The President of the Privy Council talked about what he called the campaign for the future of the country. He suggested perhaps that campaign occurred at a point in the past in this session. I make it very clear to him the view of this party and that of my colleagues, that the campaign for the future of the country is not at all a thing of the past. It is not at all a period of the past. The campaign for the future of the country is a matter which must be a preoccupation of all of the members of this House of Commons. I add this: that it is not simply a question of dealing with matters raised in a referendum, and it is not simply a question of dealing with concerns that were raised in the province of Quebec.

The campaign for the future of this country must be a campaign which takes real account of the special requirements and the special sensitivities of Canadians in all regions of this country, and of times that are not limited by a referendum debate established by one party, one government in one province. That campaign for the future of this country continues. I must say, as I will be indicating a little later on, as someone who had the honour to take part in the referendum debate in the province of Quebec, that I am personally concerned that many of the actions of this government have reflected an insensitivity to the problems and to the aspirations of western Canada that could do very serious damage to the capacity of Canada to heal and to grow together.

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

**Mr. Clark:** The President of the Privy Council indicated that the government had made some progress in clearing up what had accumulated in the past. This Parliament, of all parliaments, should not be content with clearing up what had accumulated in the past. We have here a majority government, a government that does not have to be preoccupied with the matters that preoccupied my government that ultimately brought us down. This is a government that has a mandate, not as to platform because it ran without one, but at least it has a mandate to act, a mandate as a majority government in this House of Commons to face directly the major problems and the great potential this nation faces. That is the mandate, and that is the unique and historic opportunity which this government has.

The President of the Privy Council quoted from the Speech from the Throne and the reference which spoke then about much being expected of this Parliament. As I said earlier in this session, much is expected of this Parliament. But, in particular, much is expected of this government. This is a majority government. This is a government which has not yet changed the rules of Parliament to democratize Parliament, so consequently this is a government which controls Parliament. If this government is not prepared to show leadership, this Parliament will not be able to show leadership. I make the point to the President of the Privy Council and to such of his colleagues as who are here that there is an onerous obligation upon him and upon his colleagues in government to do much