

only be enforced when the supplementary estimates will be under consideration at the end of October.

Mr. Speaker, this allows us to get ready and be more efficient in the House and perhaps say fewer platitudes and make more serious comments which are right to the point. Consequently, the public who hear us or read *Hansard* will not be under the impression that our proceedings are long, tedious and fruitless.

My colleagues and myself of the Social Credit Party of Canada who have been elected here have adopted a realistic attitude. We are sitting here to do some inquiries and solve problems. We will work in a spirit of cooperation, but we will not necessarily bless everything the government will do nor everything the opposition will say. Mr. Speaker, as you know by your experience in the Chair, Whigs and Tories have been returning the ball to one another for a century. But the Social Crediters have in this House the reputation of fighting for particular problems of a social or economic nature, and of making suggestions often termed as idiotic but which are adopted afterwards. It sometimes takes several elections before traditional parties promise what we have been asking for. What is important, though, is not that we should be the ones carrying out our suggestions, or the Whigs, or the Tories, but that they should be implemented at last.

My colleague from Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) has proposed repeatedly, ever since he came to this House, as hon. members on this side remember, that the old age security pension be granted to any person whose spouse is 60 years old. This is a motion he presented year in and year out, and he valiantly upheld his cause in each and every session.

At the very start, our colleagues on both sides of the House were not even listening to his proposal. Then, they lent a distant ear, then two, and finally a promise was made to act just before the election, and all of a sudden the Spirit came down from heaven and fell on the seat of the right hon. Prime Minister. There is an announcement in the Speech from the Throne that it will be done in October 1975.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it was in a positive spirit that yesterday during the question period we asked of the right hon. Prime Minister that that promise not be implemented in October 1975 but well before that since the government holds a majority and the power. That is what he wanted since people put their faith in him following the promise he made. In fact, he was already assured of the co-operation of all three opposition parties to support and quickly pass that measure which is absolutely vital if we are to put the economy back on its feet again in certain areas of our society, particularly in the case of those who have reached the critical age of 60.

Mr. Speaker, the papers will say this is a Liberal accomplishment. We do not mind. The Tories will say this is a government accomplishment. We are glad about it because we know for a fact deep inside that had it not been for a little member for Abitibi, had it not been for his perseverance, his honest tenacity, that proposal might never have seen the light in this House.

That is the example, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to give at the very beginning of my speech to show our colleagues,

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particularly the newly arrived—whom we welcome wholeheartedly—that our work, that the meaning of our presence here is precisely that—not to claim the credit for accomplishments beyond our control but at least repeat in this House what our fellow citizens ask of us, to give a different bell ring, and God knows how many different bell rings there are in society, so that in the final analysis the legislation passed here during a session reflects a true picture of us and give results.

Mr. Speaker, we shall work as a team to do something like the hon. member for Abitibi has done in this matter. This is the meaning of our work here. We shall not work with a partisan spirit. The Chair as well as the Cabinet and the other parties of this House can be assured that we shall respect this position.

Mr. Speaker, the federal election of last July 8 marks an unhappy date. We continue to think so because of the unfortunate strategy of the Progressive Conservatives which caused an election and which punished those who had provoked it, since the New Democratic Party has much fewer members than before. This proves that the population wants us to work in the House and not play politics. This is a lesson, maybe the only one, that can be drawn from the last election. Our fellow citizens want us to work and to legislate in the common interest.

For this election, Mr. Speaker, some people wanted again to do away with the Social Credit Party. It was once again predicted that this party would disappear because our opponents knew about our lack of financial and other means. Yet we may be even stronger than before, strengthened and enriched by a great experience, that of having fought against gigantic machines with makeshift means. And God knows that having elections in Quebec is no holiday. Yet we went through this period.

Since my return to this House, I have heard about the famous problem of official recognition for the Social Credit Party. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of those who may still be in doubt, I believe that there is a rule which should be present in the mind of everyone, to the effect that the House of Commons must accept the popular verdict without any hesitation. It the population has decided to send 11 members to Parliament under a certain label, it is not up to the House to decide whether or not to accept this verdict, since in our system, an election is the supreme decision. This is why, Mr. Speaker, we shall demand that this principle be respected even though at the present time the whole matter seems to be settled, and for that I wish to thank my colleagues of all parties. I hope that this principle which has now been established will continue to be accepted on both sides of this House, with a friendly attitude.

Mr. Speaker, I would like at this point to come back to the Speech from the Throne—

**Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke):** It's unique!

**Mr. Fortin:** It is unique, as stated by my colleague from Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier), who won brilliantly no doubt because he did a good job in his constituency with his "office work". I know all about it. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the example set by the hon. member for Sherbrooke may influence other Liberal members around me, who do not do any "office work" in their constituencies, so I can