

Interim Supply

Our nation has developed into a happy hunting ground for monopoly interests. The hon. member for Skeena spoke most effectively about monopoly interests in the drug industry. Monopoly interests prevail in many fields in which the Canadian people are interested.

We have a so-called national defence department which offers no defence at all for the Canadian people. It is a farce from a to z. Our Canadian defence expenditures have no relationship whatever to the defence of the Canadian people. It is a tragedy at best. We have inadequate protection for our fishermen and our national health measures are a disgrace compared with those of other nations. Even so-called relatively backward countries like Mexico have a comprehensive national health plan. My mother who is now 79 years of age lived in Europe as a young girl and even in her day she had to pay a fee each week which entitled her to complete medical coverage. We, in Canada, are away behind the rest of the civilized world in this respect.

If we think of our basic industry, agriculture, we realize that there have been hand-outs to the people in that industry. I suppose that with the drought on the prairies there will be a lot more hand-outs, and perhaps there will have to be. Fundamentally and basically, however, we have to resort to hand-outs because we have not a government in office that recognizes the basic needs of agriculture, namely, in the words of the Prime Minister when he was a spokesman for the opposition, parity not charity. This government is continuing the old Liberal policy of hand-outs to the farmers, if and when electoral demands are urgent.

Mr. Brunsdon: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, may I ask what is the objection to the government's drought relief policy in the drought stricken areas of the prairie provinces?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave): Again because of the hubbub in the committee the Chair was unable to grasp the point of order. The words that did come through to the Chair did not seem to indicate a point of order. I would ask the committee to abate its various conversations so that the words of the hon. member may reach hon. members of the committee and may reach *Hansard*.

An hon. Member: Why?

Mr. Regier: I want to thank you very much for your ruling, Mr. Chairman. I realize that truth hurts and that there is a very keen desire to rise on points of order when a few basic truths are enunciated. We have in office,

[Mr. Regier.]

and this is very important to us, a government that has completely failed to show any appreciation of the importance of the civil service of Canada. Without the civil service our government and all law and order in our nation would be hopelessly lost.

We have had an announcement by the Prime Minister that unless the other place does so and so, an election may be called. We, in our group, would welcome an election, despite the fact that in the early weeks of that election campaign we would be having the founding convention of the New party. Nevertheless, we would welcome this election because—

An hon. Member: The New party is not founded yet?

Mr. Regier: The New party may not be founded officially as yet, but I wish to assure the hon. member that in the past number of years there have been thousands and thousands of Canadians who have met in every major city of Canada and who have given some thought to national problems. We will have a consolidation of the thinking of the grass of the Canadian people, which is something that neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives nor the Social Credit party have ever had. Our appeal is going to be a people's appeal that is going to have a real influence on the Canadian electorate.

Mr. Creaghan: What has this to do with interim supply?

Mr. Regier: Interim supply involves the life of this government. Anything I have to say concerning the life of this government is appropriate at this particular stage. We say that unless this government is willing to go to the people it is unworthy of interim supply. In the first place we feel that we do not have a unified government. We have a divided government. We have a couple of ministers in the cabinet who unfortunately have to share a desk but who are divided on the issue of the use of nuclear arms by Canadian forces. I have already indicated that most of the cabinet was denied access to the contents of the budget until it was presented in this House of Commons.

An hon. Member: Where did you get your information?

Mr. Regier: We also have the admission of the Minister of Finance that he released the budget to a non-Canadian before it was released to this House of Commons. According to our traditions this would have called for his immediate resignation; but not so under a Tory government in Canada.

Mr. Walker: That is untrue.