

be expected to examine such powers as have been given to the government for meeting emergent needs. I shall have a word to say on that a little later on.

Another feature of the speech to which considerable attention is given is that which relates to the tax agreements with the provinces. There again is a large subject which has attracted much attention during the last few years and which at the present time is more pressing for immediate solution than ever. It is well, I think, that the House of Commons should have its attention directed at the earliest moment to what the position is in regard to these questions which affect so intimately the relations of the provinces and the dominion and be prepared to discuss them, as I anticipate we shall, at considerable length during the session.

There is mention of redistribution, of the Dominion Elections Act and of old age pensions. These are important measures which the house will wish to know of at once, and they are therefore given specific reference in the speech from the throne. There is reference in an earlier paragraph to the other classes of legislation which the house is being asked to consider. But what I wish to say is this, that when my hon. friend refers to the speech as so much in the way of vaporizings, so much in the way of verbiage and the like, he does credit neither to himself nor to the institution of parliament and its proceedings in using that kind of language. Were I to characterize the early part of my hon. friend's speech in words that I felt would be fitting, I would say that to me he resembled nothing quite so much as a political pedlar with a pack into which he had scraped together with a fine tooth comb all the petty criticisms and smallnesses that the Tory literature of the past few years has been able to put out. That was a strange performance from the leader of a once great political party, who takes upon himself to move that the government of the day does not enjoy the confidence of parliament, and thereby represents that he himself is the one who should succeed to the leadership of the government of the country. My hon. friend has a good deal still to learn before he can expect any change of government that will place him in a higher seat than he enjoys today.

Now may I come to some of the questions that have been referred to more especially by my hon. friend. I do not know that I can do better than follow the sequence of these matters as they are set out in the speech. First of all I shall take up the question of controls. I confess that I was rather sur-

prised at one quite striking omission—it was not the only one; I am going to refer to another one or two in a moment—from my hon. friend's deliverance this afternoon. He said very little about controls, about the desirability of having all controls removed, and very little about the supremacy of parliament in the matter of controls. I wonder why. I suppose my hon. friend felt that he was getting a little too near home; that parliament was here at the present time, and that from now on everything to be done in the way of controls will be done by this parliament, because the speech from the throne makes it very clear that such controls as the government continues to exercise will expire on March 31. After that date the government will possess no special emergency powers except those given by this House of Commons and agreed to by the Senate and His Excellency the Governor General. We have heard enough about the government usurping the powers of parliament. After all, the power to exercise such controls as the government has exercised from the beginning has been given to it by this parliament. There have been large numbers of orders in council passed in order to carry on great purposes such as were essential during a time of war and to meet conditions as they arose out of the war, but those orders in council were authorized by legislation approved by this parliament. It was under the authority of parliament that the government enacted these orders in council. Yet when hon. gentlemen are abroad in different parts of the land where their audiences are not quite as familiar with the facts as members of parliament are, especially when assembled together, they talk about the supremacy of parliament being destroyed; about the country being governed by orders in council; about getting rid of all controls, as if they were some kind of a curse. Well, may I say, and I think the speech from the throne is very clear on the point, that the only purpose this government has in asking this House of Commons for any authority to control commodities, prices or the like is that we may escape evils of a kind which are still fresh in the minds of people such as occurred after the last war, and also that we should be in a position to see that a more even distribution of commodities and services takes place in our own country, to serve the needs of the people in every part of the country.

My hon. friends say—they have not said it here as yet, but they are saying it in the country—that we should get rid of all controls as fast as we can. I will not take up