

*Interim Supply*

it to go to committee immediately." I personally thought it should have gone to committee before second reading, but hon. members were in such a co-operative mood we decided to have second reading and then send it to committee.

We have bent backwards to co-operate with the government. On this present occasion we have put forward three, in fact four choices. On Wednesday I pleaded with the Minister of National Defence. I like the minister. I like his executive assistant.

**Mr. McCleave:** He gave you some Chinese food the other night.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** I like the minister—

**Mr. McCleave:** How about the Chinese food?

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** I pleaded with the minister on Wednesday. I said, "You alone can stand up and say 'I have had enough, I will send it to committee.'"

The hon. member for Peace River made two very good suggestions. The first one was that the department of defence estimates be called and that they be sent to committee. What was wrong with that? The arrogant pride of the Minister of National Defence would not let him agree. His party members, through a false feeling of honour, thought they must protect him and they rallied around and said, "Don't accept that." The Prime Minister ruled the suggestion out immediately and never even considered it.

Today we made another suggestion, to split the supply motion in two and pay the civil servants. We said, "Pay the civil servants their money, and pay the contractors their money." We pleaded with the Prime Minister. We begged. We were co-operative. We did our best, and it hurts that they never even considered it. They said no, no, no. Arrogant, arrogant, arrogant, arrogant, I say to them. They do not care about the civil servants, about democracy, about Canada, this nation of ours.

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

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** The fourth suggestion, which was put forward by the hon. member for Kamloops a few days ago, was that the Prime Minister should consult with the ten men the hon. member for Kamloops named on November 3. The hon. member for Leeds has always impressed me with his serious study of any problem, and I know of his particular friendship with the Prime Minister. I ask him

[Mr. Horner (Acadia).]

tonight to have the Prime Minister consult with the ten men named by the hon. member for Kamloops. Let the Prime Minister consult with them over the week end. If they say that this bill should be approved in principle, then I suppose the Prime Minister would be justified in his stand. But these are all experienced men who have spent some 30 years in the services. Can we disregard men with their degree of experience? We must consider them as experts whether we like them or not. I do not even know them but they are experts.

I understand that eight of the ten are in Ottawa so there would be no difficulty getting hold of them over the week end. Again I say to the hon. member for Leeds, have the Prime Minister consult with these distinguished servicemen who were prepared to fight and die for Canada during their long careers in the services. If these men tell the Prime Minister that unification is a grave departure from the normal course, then let the Prime Minister reconsider his attitude and refer the defence estimates to committee.

• (8:40 p.m.)

Nobody will lose face over such a step. We will immediately pass interim supply and the civil servants will be paid. Everyone will be happy and content. We Conservatives will be able to go to our convention and enjoy ourselves, as one does at all conventions where one meets friends. Let me read the names of the ten persons: Lieutenant General R. W. Moncel, Lieutenant General F. J. Fleury, Vice Admiral K. L. Dyer, Air Marshal C. L. Annis, Rear Admiral W. A. Landymore, who would not be available and whom I do not expect the Prime Minister would wish to speak to particularly, Rear Admiral M. G. Stirling, Rear Admiral R. P. Welland, Lieutenant Geoffrey Walsh, Rear Admiral J. V. Brock and Vice Admiral H. S. Rayner. They are the ten whom the hon. member for Kamloops named the other night.

**An hon. Member:** Do they belong to your party?

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** All I say is, let us solve the impasse in which parliament finds itself because of the arrogant position the government has taken. I am not asking them to lose face. Follow the suggestion of the hon. member for Peace River and send the estimates back to the committee. Nobody will lose face over that. I know that pride has ruined