

*Interim Supply*

situation that is developing and has developed here in the House of Commons.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Somebody must be to blame.

**Mr. Patterson:** I am going to make a proposal later on—

**Mr. McIntosh:** You cannot ride both sides of the fence.

**Mr. Patterson:** I am not on both sides of the fence.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Well, you sound like it.

**Mr. Patterson:** Perhaps you just cannot understand anything, except some categorical position one way or the other.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Well, just answer.

**Mr. Patterson:** I am not going to get involved in a controversy at this moment.

My second point is that the national interest requires that a solution be found to this immediate situation. Someone has mentioned that we are two or three years behind so far as our legislative program is concerned, and I suppose we could all agree with that statement. Reference has been made to old age pension legislation, to veterans legislation, immigration policy, medical insurance, scientific research, national housing, a film development corporation and many other items, some on the order paper and some not.

**Mr. Winkler:** Old age pensions.

**Mr. Patterson:** I mentioned old age pensions right at the start.

**Mr. Winkler:** You should have mentioned them twice.

**Mr. Patterson:** I would be glad to do that. We have quite a list of legislative items, either on the order paper or proposed, but these are all being sidetracked because we find ourselves in a rather prolonged debate on interim supply. I suggest that in the interests of the nation we ought to find some solution to this problem so that we can go ahead with the legislative program and those affairs that are of vital concern to the country.

Thirdly, I believe it is absolutely essential that we find a solution in the interests of the public servants of this country. We must recognize that their welfare is being affected by this situation.

**An hon. Member:** A Conservative filibuster.  
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**Mr. Patterson:** Those are not my words. We have had considerable debate on the cost of living and on the difficulty people are experiencing in keeping food on their tables and a roof over their heads. I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that our public servants, who are serving Canada so faithfully and so well, require prompt receipt of their pay cheques in order to keep ahead of things or even to keep up with them. A delay in the receipt of those cheques results in embarrassment and in hardship. I say that these people must not be made to bear the brunt of our failure to solve our problems in the House of Commons.

I am not sure how the superannuated civil servants receive their cheques, whether they are dependent on the passage of this resolution or not. But I suggest that these people, as well as all others who are affected by our actions, are going to find themselves in extremely difficult circumstances.

I appeal to the two right hon. gentlemen who have the greatest responsibility in this house to co-operate in finding a mutually satisfactory way out of this impasse.

**Mr. Churchill:** That suggestion was made this afternoon, wasn't it? Wasn't it suggested that the resolution and bill be split into two parts as the answer to this problem, and that sufficient money be voted immediately to pay the salaries of government employees?

**Mr. Patterson:** I heard the question.

**Mr. Churchill:** And it was rejected by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Patterson:** The suggestion was made that the house leaders meet to try and resolve this.

**Mr. Churchill:** That was in addition to the other suggestion.

**Mr. Patterson:** That is all right, but I would point out to the hon. gentleman that he has made a lot of speeches and this is my first in this debate.

The suggestion was made that the house leaders meet. I suggest that this will not be adequate. I believe the two right hon. gentlemen should meet, should discuss this problem face to face and come up with a satisfactory solution to it. Both these right hon. gentlemen are acknowledged as great Canadians and great statesmen in their own right. We in this party appeal to them to meet behind closed doors, even as labour and management must some times meet together behind closed doors, to resolve the problem.