

the Liberals want out of here and the Tories have caved in after all their big talk about the Supercontinental through Saskatoon and Edmonton. And now they want to go home. Members from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have moved motions under the provisions of Standing Order 43 concerning these matters. Would it not be nice if we could sit here next week and discuss those matters with the Minister of Transport?

● (2140)

A creature of this government, a child begotten by this government supported by the official opposition, by my party as a last desperate resort to bail out the CPR and CNR from hauling people around Canada was something we supported. Three years later, where are the people who supported it? They are all worried about the route to their own constituency. They are not worried about transportation in Canada as a whole. Everyone wants to go home this weekend for the rest of the summer. The Tories have chickened out. The greatest victory the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) could have won is if he and all his colleagues had stayed in their offices until four o'clock this afternoon and Parliament would be meeting on Monday. But they chickened out.

I do not want to hear any more words from government members, some of whom have phoned me and asked me where I got this argument about my railway line. We should continue to sit for the larger reasons of interest rates, transportation, energy, housing, you name it. If the NDP is nothing else, it is well organized. There will be a third of us here tonight, a third here next week and a third the week after. When the crunch comes, we will be here. I wonder about those who ask where the NDP will be. The guys who said that Parliament has to keep sitting, where the hell are they? Less than half of them were here today. They are ones who were going to make Parliament sit until the postal strike was settled. They blew it this afternoon. They just emptied their big bowl of jelly and they blew it. I do not want to hear another word from any Tory about what should be done by this Parliament starting next week. They caved in this afternoon at one o'clock.

Mr. Kempling: Where were the NDP?

Mr. Benjamin: I remind the whip of the Conservative party that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) moved a motion to help the official opposition keep this House sitting next week. What did they do? They voted with the Liberals. They ran for cover. They had a dog fight in the lobby here at one o'clock this afternoon, ran for cover and then voted with the Liberals. That is something they have been wanting to do all week.

My colleague had the courage to say that, as a result of the idiotic things the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) said last night, we would reconsider our position. He had the courage to move a motion, but where were the Tories?

Mr. Blenkarn: How are you going to vote tonight?

Mr. Kempling: Where's Broadhead?

Summer Recess

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It might be interesting for the Chair to hear what the hon. member for Regina West has to say. I invite hon. members to listen to that hon. member for his remaining three minutes.

Mr. Benjamin: I want to inform my colleagues and friends to the right—

Mr. Blenkarn: Are you voting with the Grits tonight?

Mr. Benjamin: As a result of what the government did last night and today, we have been reconsidering our position. I ask the hon. member to wait for the vote. However, I am prepared to give him odds that we will vote against adjourning the House.

Mr. Blenkarn: You don't know how to vote. You are waiting for Stanley to tell you how to vote.

Mr. Benjamin: If a political party, whether it be in government, the official opposition, or the third or fourth party in this House, decides on a cause and makes it plain it is going to fight that issue on a matter of principle, unless it sticks to that and sees it through, even if it should lose, that denigrates not only the House of Commons but our political system, which happens to be our party system of government. All parties have problems internally. There is no denying that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Benjamin: I would ask the parliamentary secretary why he was so angry tonight when one of his colleagues decided to change places with me. I personally believe there are good grounds and cause for this Parliament to sit for the rest of July and into August. It is not the issues which cause the postal workers and a lot of others to go out in strike and continue to strike for the rest of the summer. I resent this playing of games, this bluff and fluff, this bowl of jelly.

Mr. Blenkarn: How are you voting?

Mr. Benjamin: I ask my colleague to wait until 0100 hours. However, I will meet any one of them behind the curtain for a bet or a punch in the mouth, which that hon. gentleman is going to get.

Surely the whole exercise over the past week requires this Parliament to continue to sit. When a government decides that in spite of all the legislation on the Order Paper that it would like to have passed, it wants out of here, and the official opposition wants to leave, there is something wrong.

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to follow the huff and fluff member opposite. I have the highest respect for every member sitting in this House. Whether that member be a backbencher, minister, member of the Conservative party or the NDP, I hold respect for that person. I respect especially the more senior members such as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) and the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey), who reminded us