

Adjournment on Completion of Business

members that while the legislation would not solve all problems, it would go far toward reducing the price of drugs for Canadian people.

The government having done that, fine; we want to know why the government is not prepared to complete the job before it recesses. It is not as though the government has not had plenty of warning about our views. On orders of the day two or three weeks ago I asked the Prime Minister if he would consider calling Bill C-190, and the Prime Minister said then that once we get the supplementary estimates and interim supply through it might be possible to do that. We want to know whether the government is prepared to assure us that the bill will be called before the recess. Is this bill among "any other measures" referred to in the motion? The motion before the house says:

That the house adjourn immediately after returning from attending royal assent to the proposed appropriation bills (supplementary estimates (C), 1967-68 and interim supply, 1968-69) and to any other measures;—

If the government would tell us this bill is one of the measures referred to, we could make rapid progress. The government knew this matter to be contentious, and it had ample opportunity to arrange the business of the house. I submit discussion of the matter would not take a great deal of time now. We could discuss the bill in committee of the whole and give it third reading in relatively short order.

I appreciate the government's problems. Government members want to get out of here as quickly as they can. They want to get on with the Liberal leadership convention, and that is understandable. I point out that the decision to hold the Liberal leadership convention in the first week of April and to try to carry on parliament while the leadership of the Liberal party was being contested was not made by the opposition parties. It was made by the government. Consequently this house has been bedevilled for the past few months with the government trying to run a two ring circus. Our present dilemma has been precipitated because the minds of many cabinet ministers are more on the leadership contest than on the business of the house or the affairs of their departments. We do not want in any way to obstruct the government members—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Douglas: —from attending their convention. We are prepared to do what we can, [Mr. Douglas.]

within conscionable limits, to see that government members get out of here and that cabinet ministers can conduct their campaigns and line up their delegates. But surely we are not asking too much when we ask the government to take a day or a day and a half, or whatever time is necessary, to pass this particular piece of legislation. As a matter of fact, if the government had agreed, yesterday we could have put through interim supply and supplementary estimates, and we could have begun the drug debate today and probably finished it by tomorrow. The government must decide what is its top priority.

Mr. Pearson: Exactly.

Mr. Douglas: The government must decide whether this drug legislation is more important than getting out of here a couple of days earlier. Whether it is of greater advantage to the people of Canada to have government members getting out a couple of days early to campaign instead of having the house sit for another day or day and a half to pass this important legislation is a decision and a responsibility the government must accept.

• (3:10 p.m.)

I agree with my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre that for the Prime Minister or anyone else to tell us that this legislation will be dealt with when we come back is not at all satisfactory. I have risen session after session for the last four years to ask the government about the Canada Development Corporation. There have been resolutions on the order paper to set up such a corporation. We were told repeatedly that the matter would be dealt with later in the session. We have not seen it yet.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You will.

Mr. Douglas: The Secretary of State for External Affairs says "You will". Where is it? The government has had four years to put it on the order paper. If the hon. gentleman as a candidate for the leadership of the Liberal party is making this a promise to me, he has my vote right now. But we have had promises for four consecutive years and nothing has happened, and such being the case I think we are justified in taking an attitude which is somewhat cynical, somewhat sceptical.

The government has brought in a motion which says parliament shall adjourn just as soon as the supplementary estimates, interim supply and any other measures it may wish to bring in have been dealt with. I want to