

*Motion Respecting House Vote*

● (9:10 p.m.)

How can we conscientiously do our duty here in this house by allowing them to get away with that, by allowing them to collect \$13 million in taxation from the little man in the street before the house passed the tax bill? Now they say they are going to continue to collect the surtax. They say, "We are not going to give it back to you people out in the street. You cannot sue us all at once. We defy the citizens of Canada to sue us all at once. We think we can pressure the opposition to allow us to get the same tax measure through. We let the auto manufacturers get away with \$30 million, but we can take \$13 million from you because we have the right to take it from you."

What kind of bureaucratic slaves are they making of the Canadian people? If one reads further in the report of the Auditor General he can grasp the full meaning of the kind of budgeting that has been going on. Yet we are supposed to vote confidence in the Minister of Finance. We have watched him bring down budget after budget, and he has been out of step a full six months. He has been most erratic in applying the brakes and feeding the gas in respect to the Canadian economy. The detail of his budgetary work has been tremendously careless.

This is what Mr. Lynch writes about the Auditor General's report in the *Calgary Herald* of January 20:

It's hard for a public servant to raise a holler, but you can almost hear Auditor General Max Henderson straining his lungs and screaming in his latest report, tabled in the House of Commons Monday.

He is shrieking at anybody who will listen—be it the government, the members of parliament, the taxpayers, the nation's youth, anybody.

What he's saying is that there's a mess in the nation's biggest business, the federal government. And nobody's doing anything about it. He implies that if there were a similar mess in a private corporation, the stockholders would rise up in revolt against a sloppy management.

That is how Mr. Lynch paraphrases Mr. Henderson's report. He goes on to say that one of the biggest complaints is that the whole matter has not been referred to the public accounts committee, and points out that that committee has not met since last April.

**Mr. Lewis:** They would not call it.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** Someone says they won't call it. How can we conscientiously do our duty for the citizens of Canada when we

[Mr. Horner (Acadia).]

see the mess that is pointed out by the Auditor General, who does the books for the board of directors over there? Are we to sit here and not vote against them, not do everything in our power to throw them out? Surely as conscientious legislators we must be prepared to throw them out at the very earliest opportunity.

In this democracy of ours are governments to be beyond defeat? Are votes to be taken as a way of keeping a roll call on members of parliament, and nothing else? That is what will happen if this motion is allowed to pass. Are we to have the spectacle of a government defeated in parliament on a major policy matter, its own budgetary resolution, being allowed to cling desperately to power? Surely the country will rise up and demand the resignation of members of the government? Surely if the Minister of Trade and Commerce was conscientious in the press conference when he stated those things about his colleagues, he too would rise up and vote against them at the earliest opportunity?

There is an interesting item in tonight's *Ottawa Citizen*, headed "\$400 Million Loan Sought by Canada." It is a report emanating from Paris, saying that Canada has asked for a \$400 million loan from the International Monetary Fund. It quotes the report from a Paris newspaper and adds:

In Washington a spokesman for the fund declined comment on today's report.

Whether this be a loan that Canada is seeking, or a return of funds that it has placed at the disposal of the I.M.F. does not really matter. The fact is that this government has been refused money by the legislature. The representatives of the people have refused it money. Therefore it has no right to raise money in any other way until it goes to the Governor General, the Prime Minister resigns, and someone else is appointed. I would suggest that the conscientious minister over there, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, take charge until the Liberal leadership convention is held, because he is not a candidate for the leadership. He cannot get along with the brand of fiscal integrity that the Minister of Finance has been displaying, and I cannot blame him for that.

If this debate has done nothing else, it should at least have highlighted the frantic desire of the government to hold on to power. It should also have highlighted the terrible financial mess in which Canada finds itself today. As reported, the government today is seeking to borrow \$400 million. Of course it