

Lewis), referred to them this afternoon: the housing legislation, the legislation respecting foreign investment, and so on. However, no one can say how soon they might be dealt with. But the fact of this parliament is that tomorrow, only a matter of hours from now, if we stay in business, we shall be dealing with the third reading of the bill to raise old age pensions and the third reading of the bill to raise the war veterans allowance.

• (2010)

An hon. Member: You have said that already.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My friend down the way remarks that I have said that. Apparently it has to be said to our friends of the Conservative Party dozens of times to get it through their heads. These people want to play political games. What really counts in this House is the business that we do. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we feel very strongly that this is not the night to bring this parliament to an end. This is not the time.

An hon. Member: How about tomorrow?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Someone asks, how about tomorrow? The time will come when we have got out of this government all we can get, and then it will be time to let the people decide about the future. I submit that at this particular point nothing could be more irresponsible than for this House to vote tonight in such a way that it would be the end of this parliament.

I believe my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, is likely to speak this evening—perhaps even to follow me in this debate. He has not shown me his notes and I do not know what he is going to say, but in light of what the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) said this afternoon, I suppose he may try to answer my argument by saying that even if this motion were carried tonight he would be willing for the House tomorrow to deal with the Old Age Security Act and the bill to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act. I say that it will then be too late. If this motion is passed tonight, there is no tomorrow as far as this parliament is concerned.

An hon. Member: For you there isn't.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, these interruptions and catcalls from the Conservatives only prove they are guilty and that there is egg on their face. They have pulled a boner. They know that whatever else this parliament may do, the people of Canada want the old age pension increase and they want the war veterans allowance increase, and a vote tonight for this motion is a vote that denies those increases.

I earnestly hope that at least some of my Tory friends will not vote for it; and there are some that I call my friends—the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall) and my namesake the hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand (Mr. Knowles) who are zealous in the fight for veterans. They are aware that the passing of this motion would deny those increases. I hope my friend, the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) and my hon. friend the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees), who a few months ago was so anxious to do something about old age pensions that he wanted to

Sale of Polymer

adjourn the House when there was nothing before it, will not vote tonight in such a way as to deny the possibility of dealing with the question of old age pensions tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, when we refer now to increases in old age pensions and war veterans allowances, we are not talking about some distant promise, something that might happen in a week or two or a month from now. We are talking about legislation that has reached the final stages in this House, that has been approved all down the line and needs only third reading tomorrow night to go to the other place and for the final steps to be taken so that the increases provided in the bills can be reflected in the April cheques of 1,800,000 old age pensioners and 80,000 recipients of war veterans allowances. That is what the debate is all about tonight, Mr. Speaker. I hope members will realize that and not try to divert the issue by saying it is a discussion on the effects on Polymer. That is not the issue.

The item in the estimates to which the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) referred this afternoon has already been defeated. It is not in the estimates that will be before this House tonight. Any possibility of rescinding the sale that took place last July is not before us. In fact, so far as Polymer is concerned, if the motion carries nothing happens to Polymer whatsoever, so that the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain was perfectly right when he said at the end of his speech that the purpose of this motion is to get rid of this administration.

That is a perfectly laudable objective, but I insist that this is not the time to do it and that the people of Canada expect business and action out of this parliament. They know that these two pieces of legislation are available tomorrow, and they would hold this parliament to account if it were so irresponsible tonight as to close up shop and go off into an election campaign.

I agree with the hon. member for Yukon who said this afternoon that the time of reckoning has come, the time to stand by principles is here. I suggest that it comes at a quarter to ten. Are we here in this parliament to play games, to try to shift one party for another, or are we here to get action for the Canadian people? What is the principle that motivates members of this House? Is it just to get power, or to win legislation that the people of Canada expect us to get for them in this session?

I feel, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that we are doing as responsible a thing as we have ever done in saying tonight that this is not the time to turf out the administration; this is not the time to bring parliament to an end: this is the time to give this parliament enough more life, at any rate, to deal with the worth-while legislation that is before us. The issue is, frankly, what do we do tomorrow? Do we go off into the political wars having closed up parliament, or do we vote for third reading of the old age pension increase and the increase in the war veterans allowance? That is the issue. I call upon this parliament tonight to vote in a responsible way, and to oppose the Conservative motion.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like this evening to touch upon a few issues which were raised either tonight, a few days ago or several days