

*Interim Supply*

as a party at all, we are the government and we must not be regarded as going to the polls to appeal as a party."

I ask the minister and others here whether that is not exactly the kind of thing which the dictators said and thought? Didn't they say it was not one party or another? Didn't they say there must be only one party, as the minister says, "competent and capable"? Wasn't that their idea? And isn't that exactly what the minister is saying? Isn't it the old totalitarian idea? Surely that is what it is, the idea that a periodic change of parties is wrong; the thing to aim for is efficiency and once you get efficiency—or what the government calls efficiency because they want to be the judges—then you must not think of a change of any kind.

Of course I must admit it is rather odd to hear those words coming from a man who considers himself a liberal and no doubt the minister calls himself that. The only explanation one can give for that is the old explanation that has been given so often, that power does things to people; that they do come to believe they are indispensable, that they are better than others and they have to be practically permanent.

Liberals up and down the country—I am talking now about real liberals and not the federal variety—and there are lots of them around—

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** They are not all written with a capital "L" though.

**Mr. Nowlan:** If there are enough of them you are going to be defeated.

**Mr. Philpott:** By whom?

**Mr. Macdonnell:** But true liberals throughout the country know that this government has been in power too long and some of them will decide to cast their first vote against the government in power. If all these people had been in this house about a year ago I think that a great many more of them would do so.

I am going to read a short statement written by Mr. Douglas Leiterman—I do not think anyone can suggest he is a supporter of this party—on the events that took place in this house almost a year ago. The following is taken from the June 2 issue of the *Ottawa Citizen*:

What happened in the commons Friday may have been inadvertent. It may even have been deserved. But it was not in the manner of democracy, and it sickened every thoughtful observer who witnessed it.

Whether you are for the pipe line or against it. Whether you vote Liberal or L.P.P. As a Canadian, as a believer in parliamentary institutions, you could not have been in that chamber without a feeling of profound regret.

For you were witnessing not only the debasement of a proud and accomplished Speaker. Not only the irresponsibility of a sorely-tried opposition. Not only the indecent haste of a thoughtless government.

You were witnessing the axe flailing at the root of human rights, and fear wrapped around you as you watched.

If by some magic we could bring these things to the attention of every real liberal I would have no doubt in my mind as to what would happen in this election.

What causes this supreme and invulnerable self-satisfaction on the part of the government? What causes the Prime Minister to believe that he is not one man but two, so that he can write letters as an individual which as Prime Minister he could not write? What causes the Minister of Trade and Commerce to approve of officials of crown corporations who are virtually civil servants becoming directors of private companies? The feeling simply is that whatever the government does must be right; they are not bound by ordinary rules, they are making the rules.

As I said a moment ago, if we could have every Canadian citizen spend some time in this chamber and observe what is going on I would have no doubt about the results. What is worst of all is that if this government comes back it will feel that its actions have been approved. We may then expect this so-called Liberal party to carry things off with a higher hand than ever. Will they not be able to argue with themselves: The voters knew everything we did; they knew about the defence production debate and the way the Minister of Trade and Commerce sought to cling to the extraordinary powers that he had; they knew about the pipe lines; they knew about closure being applied; they knew about the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "What the Hell do we Care?" and they knew about the Prime Minister's letter to the C.B.C.

I wish I could put this up to every true liberal in this country; I wish I could put it to them personally. I believe that the true liberals, if they could get this picture right, would regard the issue as one wherein they were called upon to come to the rescue of free parliamentary government, an outstanding quality of which is recognition of the rights of the minority.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I wonder who wrote this drivel?

**Mr. Macdonnell:** I wish I could say to them, "You need not vote for us. Have as mean an opinion of us as you like, but vote for the parliamentary system. Vote to