

*Summer Recess*

**Mr. Fennell:** Hon. members say, "What a laugh". They just want to go home.

**An hon. Member:** Where have you been for the last two weeks?

**Mr. Fennell:** I have been right here for the last two weeks, and I plan to be here for the next two and a half months because we have a lot of problems to solve. It would be a good thing if those hon. members would stay home. Then we could sit here and get something done.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Chénier:** You had it a year ago. What did you do with it?

**Mr. Fennell:** There is a danger—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Ontario has the floor.

**Mr. Fennell:** There is a danger in our sitting here. The Minister of Finance keeps threatening the deindexing of income tax. Does Your Honour realize that it will raise an additional \$1.7 billion? Soon the government will have 60 per cent of the GNP. If it does not introduce deindexing, it will probably try wage and price controls. This did not work five centuries ago when the Divine Rights of Kings were operating. The government has tried so many bad things that it is time it did something positive.

**Mr. Chénier:** Get rid of the PCs!

**Mr. Fennell:** I would say that to kick the Liberal can would be far better.

**Mr. Chénier:** That is a new one.

**Mr. Fennell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time I have had—

**Mr. Chénier:** Time you have wasted!

**Mr. Fennell:** I have not wasted any time. I have put my time to great use. My time has been wasted, to a great extent, by ministers not answering queries of mine. Yes, that time has been wasted. However, I have created productive time for my constituents, and I have worked hard on behalf of them, as we all have on this side of the House. Believe me, if we had stayed in government, this government would be sailing along a lot smoother road than with the Liberal intervention.

**Mr. Chénier:** We saw that last year. You sailed right past the election!

**Mr. Fennell:** Thank you for the time, and thank you, Liberals, for the insults. You can continue with the insults, because you cannot do anything else in this House of Commons, so keep it up. You are making fools of yourselves. You are making fools of Canadians.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Would the hon. member please address the Chair.

● (1530)

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to participate in this adjournment debate, I thought it unfortunate that the previous speaker, the hon. member for Ontario, became so incensed about a little matter. Maybe he got out of bed on the wrong side this morning, but some of the things he said during the course of his remarks sounded to me like an equal combination of Greek mythology, Walt Disney and science fiction. I do not think he should have allowed himself to become quite so incensed over the inventions of his own mind.

What has happened in this House over the last few days has been both irresponsible and new. The Conservatives have said they will not allow this motion to come to a vote, and they will not allow the House to adjourn for the normal summer recess when members can become reacquainted with problems in their constituencies and do the work that is important there enabling them to represent their constituents here in Ottawa. The Conservatives have said they will not allow a recess until such time as the government brings in legislation taking away the rights of the workers in the Post Office dispute and of the Post Office itself and putting an end to the strike. I say it is not only irresponsible but it is new and unusual because, in fairness to the Conservative party, never until this past year has the Conservative party when in opposition played this irresponsible role.

I have to say in fairness that the attitude of the House of Commons during major labour disputes over the years has been pretty well unanimous in its approach to keeping parliamentarians' hands off negotiations and the work of mediators and professionals who attempt to bring most settlements. I believe that an examination would show that the tendency is to allow the industrial relations system to function.

Why is it different this time? Why is it that an opposition party is doing something under the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) which did not occur when Bob Stanfield was leader of the opposition or when John Diefenbaker was leader of the opposition? Why is it that it has only occurred now at a time when the Leader of the Opposition is under very great pressure in relation to his future role from some of his erstwhile supporters?

**Mr. McDermid:** You have had experience in that.

**Mr. Regan:** As a matter of fact, I will mention more because this time, for some cheap purpose, their past relatively public spirited record has been allowed to go right down the drain. To keep Parliament sitting until the strike is settled is for those involved more than unsettling. It does much to guarantee that the strike will not be settled in the negotiating process. Having Parliament looking over the mediator's shoulder is not at all helpful.

The hon. member for Ontario said just a few moments ago that Parliament must continue to sit day by day and that we