

Interim Supply

Mr. Horner (Acadia): What is the attitude of the government? They laugh more and more about democracy. What did the minister say when the hon. member for Kamloops was speaking the other day? "They have no right to attack me", he said. He told the committee that he should not be subjected to this drastic examination. What did he say at five o'clock? "I am above all this. I am the great white father guiding this nation toward an unprecedented position in world affairs through a united, integrated or amalgamated armed service."

I pleaded with the minister the other day. I pleaded with the minister yesterday. I pointed out that he alone could save the civil service and I hoped that he would rise and say in a meek voice: "I will place this bill before the committee. I have nothing to hide."

An hon. Member: Yes, but he is not a hypocrite.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Well, history will judge us all.

● (8:30 p.m.)

Let us look at the attitude of this Liberal government since it took office. What did it do two years ago? You remember the big club it tried to wield over the heads of the opposition one particular Easter when they made us sit on Good Friday.

Mr. Hellyer: It was the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): They said, "Pass this and this and this, or you shall not get an Easter holiday." Where was their arrogance then? It was very much to the forefront. One year ago before the summer holidays they again said, "Pass this and this and this before the summer holidays," and we went on into the middle of July. But finally the heat got them and they allowed us a couple of breaks. It was the same story last summer.

What are the Liberals doing now, Mr. Chairman? Look at the agenda. There are five most important pieces of legislation on it, including defence unification, the transportation bill, medicare, and proposed legislation for senior citizens who are waiting, waiting, waiting in anticipation of the government's announcement with regard to their pensions. Then there is the Bank Act. The Liberals are the high interest rate boys. They voted for that not too long ago. They want all of these five important pieces of legislation passed, and they will be saying to us again, "Pass this and this or you will have no Christmas holiday."

I am quite prepared to stay right here and even sit on Christmas day. They made us sit on Good Friday and I am prepared to sit even on Christmas day if they, the arrogant ones who believe they alone have the right to rule, are going to push us and try to ram everything down our throats through blackmail or through any other method or means they might use. I believe strongly in democracy. I am prepared to see that democracy will rule our country.

In case, Mr. Chairman, you and others think that I have gone too far in this regard, let me ask, what have we done to co-operate?

An hon. Member: Nothing.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Someone over there says "nothing." Just hold on. I remember the transportation legislation of two years ago, Bill C-120, which proposed a drastic departure in transportation policy. We said we did not want to debate it until we knew more about it and asked that it be sent to committee. It went to committee, was examined in committee and the government, through wise use of democracy, decided not to reintroduce the bill afterwards. I commend the government for the generous attitude it took then, and we co-operated. We assisted in committee.

What is the attitude on the present transportation bill? What is the attitude of the official opposition which, according to the press and radio, is supposed to be filibustering everything?

An hon. Member: Right.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Someone over there says "right." Just hear me out.

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I think we had better have a little order on the other side of the chamber and let the hon. member make his speech.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Chairman, I like the assistance being given me on this side but I do not really mind the interjections. If they want to expose to me and the nation how little they care, let them go ahead. I want the nation to know.

We co-operated on the transportation bill. We gave up the resolution stage on Bill C-231, a debate which could have carried on for several days. In order to facilitate the business of the house we graciously said to the Minister of Transport, "We will give up the resolution stage. If you have a bill drafted, present it. We will facilitate you by allowing