

forward at five o'clock. I am sure the Minister of Labour would not want to stand in his way. Perhaps I had better call it five o'clock.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the acting house leader whether he could give us a forecast of the business for the next few days.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, last evening the house leader indicated that a supply motion would probably be called for Monday. But with the concurrence of the house leader, I have been having conversations with hon. gentlemen opposite and there is some prospect that arrangements can be worked out which would expedite the completion of this section of the session.

● (5:00 p.m.)

These arrangements might make it unnecessary to have that debate on those two days. If these arrangements can be completed when my hon. friend, the house leader, is back here on Monday morning, and I think I can be modestly optimistic about the prospects, then we would go right on with the estimates of the Solicitor General followed by the estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare. If both should be completed, I am sure we could find some other estimates with which to deal.

In view of what I said, it would be preferable if I did not indicate any specific business for any day beyond Monday. However, I should like to express appreciation to hon. gentlemen opposite who, on this birthday of mine, have been most co-operative and to express restrained optimism that we may all achieve what I think all of us here and the country desire.

Mr. Pugh: You are mellowing with age, Jack.

Mr. Churchill: The minister is 39 years old today.

Mr. Knowles: Like Jack Benny.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business listed on today's order paper, namely public bills.

Canada Elections Act

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT TO REDUCE VOTING AGE

Mr. J. E. Brown (Brantford) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-5, to amend the Canada Elections Act (age of voters).

He said: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a good measure of personal satisfaction to move second reading of Bill C-5, to amend the Canada Elections Act in so far as it regulates the age of voters.

As we all know, the act at present requires voters in federal elections to be of the full age of 21 years, with the exception of those serving in the armed forces. This bill permits all those of the age of 18 years and over to vote.

I cannot but look back to when I myself was 18 years of age. I happened to be intensely interested in politics, more so than most of the young people of my age, and I am glad to say that I took part and helped in election campaigns at that age. The year before, when I was only 17 years of age, I worked very hard for the Liberal party in the riding where I lived. This was during the election of 1930 when our party was defeated pretty badly by the Conservative party under that redoubtable chieftain who became prime minister of Canada, Right Hon. R. B. Bennett.

Today, the situation is different in my opinion. Never before has such a large proportion of young people been so keenly interested in the government of this country. Never before has such a large proportion of Canada's young people been so well educated and informed in matters of public concern. Never before has such a large cross-section of young people been mentally equipped and actually ready to render a vote to help choose a suitable government for Canada.

There is one fine thing about our young people who are at present under the age of 21 years. They do not seem to be committed to any one particular political party. As a general rule, they are not partisans to any political organizations, in my opinion. One and all, they are interested only in voting intelligently after weighing the situation and the consequences of marking their ballot.

Some people have told me that if we give the franchise to this large body of minors—call them minors if you will—it will have only one major effect in the result of the next federal election, that is it will greatly increase the N.D.P. vote. That point of view is incorrect in my opinion. The N.D.P. will have to work awfully hard to win the votes of these young people. But this goes likewise for