

*Interim Supply*

financial field. We are aware that estimates are increasing year by year and that there is need to separate them from our legislative considerations. I think the government would be much more fair if they were willing to disclose what items they wanted passed—they could certainly count on my co-operation and on the co-operation of this party—and allow us to give consideration to what we consider to be our priorities in relation thereto.

In the list of 35 measures, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of items of extreme importance to my constituency. They are of importance to some segments of the economy in my constituency. There are others which do not bear that importance as far as my constituents are concerned. I believe I have an obligation and a right to press for the needs and requirements of my constituents. I should have the right, Mr. Chairman, as a member of parliament, to know to which of these items I should give preference in the allocation of the time to which I consider I am entitled.

I believe the government should be willing to set a date for such things as the Easter holiday, and say we are going to have a holiday. Anyone can check back, Mr. Chairman, and ascertain that we were not much farther ahead after Easter than we were before Easter. We had accomplished very little in terms of legislation or estimates. I am sure that the objection of every member to having something rammed down his throat will be apparent. You will find that after two months of what would be normally our summer recess we will not have accomplished very much in terms of legislation with regard to these 35 items. Hon. members should be informed of the government's intention with regard to a summer recess, and what the government's preference is in connection with legislation it hopes to get through before that time.

I agree with the Prime Minister that there are things that should be presented and passed. However, when he throws in this flag issue and says the government will stake its future on it, and implies that there may be an election, then I think he is being unfair and is not giving preference to any of the 35 items he listed. These items cannot matter very much if he is willing to postpone them for six or eight months in order to have an election.

We are talking about the government, but I am not sure really who the government is. I would think it is a very small number of people in the cabinet. I do not believe it includes all the cabinet. I have sat in opposition with some of these government members, I have been their colleague in years gone by, and I have found most of them to be reasonable. I am sure these people did not decide that these 35 items

would have to be passed before a decision could be reached about a summer recess. I just wonder who the government is. Is it only the Prime Minister who sits in his little ivory tower and decides what he wants to get done, decides what the preference shall be, just as he now decides what the flag should be? Is this what government by the Liberal party means? After all, the Liberal party was elected on the fact they had a team and they were going to be able to work things out administratively. They had better get started because they have not given much indication so far that they are a team.

Every member of this house has a responsibility. Their responsibilities vary according to whether they sit on the government side or the opposition side. I think it would be foolish for 265 members of parliament to sit here and not be able to come to a decision on what constitutes a year's work. We know that in the United Kingdom if the work of parliament is not finished by a certain time they automatically start a new session. The old session may end today and a new one may start tomorrow. However, they do decide that there will be a time at which this may happen. I feel that the business of parliament has grown from the time when a session used to be three or four months in length, and being a member of parliament is now a full-time proposition.

I cannot see how the newspapers of this country are going to be able to blame members of parliament for poor management if the government itself cannot make a decision and provide parliament and the country with an agenda for the orderly conduct of business. I strongly urge the house leader to give full consideration to what business he believes should have priority before a summer recess which, in my opinion, should begin on the first of July. Certainly, he should give consideration to the possibility of completing the important legislation the government may bring before us before dealing with the estimates. I strongly urge consideration of this matter. There will probably be two months taken up in trying to convince the government that this course is going to be followed in the future. However, this course is going to be followed because I feel that the matter is important enough to warrant following it. I do not believe the government will find the house unreasonable, if the government is fair and straightforward with the house. I hope that tomorrow the Prime Minister will announce that he expects parliament to recess for the months of July and August, and that certain legislation must be passed before we recess.