

Motion Respecting House Vote

By accepting this motion we are setting a precedent. We are accepting the suggestion that the executive has complete control, that we shall not be able even to question that control unless the executive says so, and that the executive will say so only after it has survived a vote of confidence. I have a good many friends on the opposite side of the house who are honourable gentlemen. I hope they will point out the fallacy of my argument, if there is one. While I differ with many of those gentlemen opposite, I cannot believe that, understanding all the implications, they will support this position. The alternative is not an election now, but a decision as to whether the Prime Minister shall be asked to leave a little earlier than intended. I was asked by one of those hon. gentlemen whether we did not intend to allow the Prime Minister to leave with honour and dignity. In reply to the suggestion that by leaving a little sooner he must do so without honour and dignity, I can only ask how anyone, as the leader of a responsible government could leave with honour and dignity after having perpetrated this sort of thing on this house.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the honour of saying a few words about the present situation and especially on the motion before the house.

All members have had the opportunity to express their views on this motion. During my few remarks on this subject, I should like to explain the reasons for political and parliamentary tumbles which point to an economic tumble. Our economy is completely unbalanced and operating to the advantage of powerful interests, because it seems to be under their control. I should like to emphasize the uneasiness within our economy and quote statistics to show where it is heading.

Our economy is heading somewhere. Powerful people control our economy for their own benefit. They make a system of it, a means which satisfies their ambition but at the expense of the great majority of the people. We have no objection to people manipulating the economy to their satisfaction or pleasure because we want them to have some revenue, but on the other hand we do want the people to have their small share of our economy. If there is no way of implementing other reforms than the ones we have now, I feel that it is the responsibility of

the government to take the necessary steps to direct our economy towards the people so that they will have the right to live, to walk, and fulfill themselves. The economy does not exist only for some individuals, but it must be directed for the benefit of the nation as a whole, for the benefit of the 20,610,000 Canadian citizens.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the vote of confidence the government is asking for today, some newspapers said that I had decided to abstain from voting while keeping the right to change my mind according to circumstances which change from day to day. I find myself constrained to motivate to the house and for the guidance of my constituents, my abstention from voting. I feel I must adapt myself to the present situation. If the situation is sensible, I will change my mind for the good of the people and if we changed our minds, as we did in the Ralliement Cr ditiste, it is because the situation has changed, the situation appeared to us under a new aspect and has taken a new turn. In view of that situation, we adapted ourselves according to the facts, the possibilities, and we considered the practical aspect, the logical aspect. We work not only according to the party line but for the people as a whole, for the good of each individual and each Canadian.

It is for those reasons that we changed our position toward that motion.

First of all, I am opposed to any increase in taxes or personal income tax, and that prevented me from voting for the government on the bill asking for a surcharge of 5 per cent on the personal income tax.

Secondly, I am also against a general election being held at this time of year, because of the present situation of our national administration, which absolutely needs to be straightened out before an election is called.

For those two reasons, I shall abstain from voting, unless I am shown by new arguments that it would be in the interest of the people that I act otherwise on this question of confidence in the present government.

If I am against our tax system and any increase in personal income tax, it does not follow that I am against the Liberals in this respect, for I am against the Conservatives for the same reasons, our two old parties having the same positions and the one being as responsible as the other for our forms of taxation, which are truly detrimental to the national economic balance, truly detrimental