

The Address—Mr. Knowles

government and yet not take the consequences of an election. Not at all, Mr. Speaker. I say, divide it into two parts. Put the substance in the motion as we have done, and we will vote on that. Then if that motion carries it is up to the government to decide whether it wants to go to the country on the issue of \$100 a month at age 65, or whether it wants to come and ask parliament whether we should stay here and do our job. If that position is put before us we will take our stand and let the chips fall where they may.

I suggest what is happening is that the government wants it two ways. The government wants to stay here, wants to be the government for two, three or four years, but it does not want to pay attention to the wishes of the house. It does not want to give us the chance to express our opinion, and it tries to keep us from expressing that opinion by saying if we vote for this amendment and it is carried we are asking for dissolution, and that there will be an election. So far as we are concerned that is a bluff which we shall call. I believe the government would not dare call an election at this stage or on this issue.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we feel our amendment is one—but, sir, I see you at the edge of your chair.

Mr. Sharp: Could I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. Knowles: Certainly.

Mr. Sharp: I am very interested in the research he has done—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I hesitate to interrupt the minister and the hon. member who has the floor, but I understand there is another hon. member who expects to speak. This will now give him about 15 minutes and, in fairness to him, I think he should be allowed to begin his remarks now.

Mr. Knowles: May I finish the sentence I was starting?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired, unless he has unanimous agreement of the house to complete his remarks.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles: I just want to say I believe this parliament did itself proud at one o'clock today when it reached agreement on the rules so that we can get on with our work. The other step we should take to get into an effective position in this session, and the sessions that lie ahead, is to make it clear we

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have the right to vote on issues of substance separate from the question of an election. This is what we are doing on this vote. We can vote on the other matter any time the government wishes. We are voting today for \$100 a month for everyone at age 65.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity in this first session of the twenty seventh parliament to congratulate the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Goyer) and the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury) who have moved and seconded the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, and to tell them that the fresh way in which they approached their task was appreciated, as we have seen, by all members of the house. I am sure their eloquent performance will bring honour to themselves and to their constituents.

• (5:30 p.m.)

As one of those who have admired your tact and skill in presiding over the deliberations of this legislative chamber, I would like to join with all hon. members in offering to you my congratulations and best wishes on your elevation to the high post you hold in this House of Commons. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and the Chairman of Committees upon their appointments, and I wish them every success in assisting you in your onerous duties.

We have just heard once again an eloquent parliamentary piece of rhetoric from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). Many of us are very much accustomed to this type of speech covering the history of the procedures of previous governments and the difficulties they have encountered in this place.

I am afraid, however, that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is forgetting that there is also a great battle of practical politics being waged by the right hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Dieffenbaker). I might say that the Leader of the Opposition has perhaps attempted to set a trap, in putting forth his amendment, to catch and overthrow the government. It is regrettable that some of the members opposite, especially those of the N.D.P., are naive enough to be led into this trap. By doing so they could be assisting the Leader of the Opposition who wants again to be successful in his ambition to become Prime Minister of this