

*Interim Supply*

its contents were known only to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, and that the rest of the cabinet was denied access to it.

**An hon. Member:** That explains a lot of things.

**Mr. Regier:** The rest of the cabinet was not even asked to approve of it. The members of the government had to wait, as I had to wait, until budget night in order to discover what "John and Don" had in mind for the rest of us for the present fiscal year. We have noted many other actions which reinforce the allegation that we do in fact have a one-man government and not a government where there is collective responsibility on the part of 20 or more men.

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Regier:** Mr. Chairman, our international prestige has very definitely declined. Anyone who has attended the meetings of the United Nations over the past number of years has had regret—

**An hon. Member:** You never attended.

**Mr. Regier:** Yes, I have been there for the past three years.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** It is six o'clock.

**Mr. Regier:** After listening to the reports of the delegates of other nations to the United Nations, it is obvious that the government of this day is responsible for the decline in our international prestige.

Mr. Chairman, would you call it six o'clock.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 7.30 p.m.

**Mr. Regier:** Mr. Chairman, before we adjourned for the dinner hour I had indicated that if there was going to be an appeal to the country we would be most happy to vote interim supply but that if there is not going to be an appeal to the electors of Canada the government of the day in my opinion is unworthy of a vote of interim supply. I indicated that the electors of Canada had very high expectations in 1957 which were continued into 1958 and, as happened once before in my lifetime when the people of Canada elected a Tory government, the people have been horribly disillusioned. The Tory government in the period from 1930 to 1935 hung on to the very end. They were in office for five years, and I pleaded with the government to spare the people of Canada the agony of a five year term on this occasion.

[Mr. Regier.]

I also contended that in effect we do not have a government as ordinarily understood under our system but that we have rule by one man. I spoke of external affairs and I indicated that our prestige in the councils of the world is now lower than it has been—

**Mr. Nesbitt:** What do you know about it?

**Mr. Regier:** —for many a long year. We all know that our economy is sagging. I was interested to read in the press only yesterday that the head of the Canadian chamber of commerce is advising us to pull up our socks and is saying that unless we do so next winter is going to be even worse than last winter for many millions of our citizens.

**Mr. Walker:** Why?

**Mr. Regier:** Because of—

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Rising unemployment.

**Mr. Regier:** Rising unemployment, as the hon. member for Essex East says in so ably assisting me, and also because all the economists I have read are predicting a downward curve from the present upswing, which I admit, about the end of October or the beginning of November.

**Mr. Walker:** That is what you are hoping for.

**Mr. Regier:** No, I am not hoping for this.

**Mr. Walker:** *Honi soit qui mal y pense.* You are as ignorant as Paddy's pig.

**Mr. Regier:** The whole essence of my speech is to needle the government into some action in order to have an upswing in our economy that will continue throughout the next winter and for the years to come.

**Mr. Walker:** It is good there are not more like you around here.

**Mr. Benidickson:** The minister was overruled in 1959 and 1960 by the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Regier:** However, I am afraid that the actions of the government to date have revealed that they are not going to be responsible for an upswing in our economy—

**Mr. Walker:** Did you consult with your assistant, the hon. member for Essex East?

**Mr. Regier:** —but rather that these economists are going to be found right in their forecasts—

**Mr. Walker:** Oh, nonsense.

**Mr. Regier:** —that next winter will be even worse than last winter. I have already referred to a speech made only a few days ago by the head of the Canadian chamber of