

Motion Respecting House Vote

years, to January 20, 1958, when this Liberal party was in opposition. The present Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) had just been elected as leader of the opposition, and had moved his first motion of non-confidence in this house. That motion is set out in the right-hand column of page 3520 of *Hansard* for 1957-58. The present Prime Minister outlined a number of reasons he felt the Conservative government should not hold office, and then he finished up with this classic phrase:

His Excellency's advisers should, in the opinion of this house, submit their resignation forthwith.

The government had not been defeated in the house on any measure. We had won every vote that had come before the house during the eight or nine months in which we had been in office; yet this Liberal party leader demanded that, without even a vote going against us, without even going to the people, the government should submit its resignation. This made the then leader of the opposition the laughing stock of the country and of the House of Commons, when he had the stupidity to put forward a motion of that kind. He did, and the party was behind it.

This was the attitude they adopted at that time. Today, when they have been defeated on a money bill on which a vote was called by a Liberal Deputy Speaker, a vote which was agreed to by a Liberal Minister of Finance, a vote which was called by a Liberal Acting Prime Minister, we are accused of trickery. It is claimed that this is not a vote of lack of confidence that we have won, but that it is some kind of trickery, some kind of buffoonery, and they refuse to give up the office to which they so desperately cling. They know that it will not be long before the people throw them out.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I suggest it is about time we made it very clear we were serious in what we did on Monday night. I want to reiterate briefly why it is we voted against that money bill. First of all, Mr. Speaker, we felt that this was a completely unjustified measure. This was the imposition of an additional 5 per cent tax on the backs of the people to pay for the overspending indulged in by the government. Just to give the house an idea how the government has overspent, Mr. Speaker, during the first four years it was in office the government increased expenditure by no less than \$3 billion. This represents an increase each and every year of 12½ per cent.

[Mr. Hees.]

• (4:50 p.m.)

Last year, Mr. Speaker, the government told us that they were retrenching, that economies were going to be made. They had been advising everyone in the country to pull in their horns and to practise economies. The government said they would give the lead and show how this should be done. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, you would have expected that, with all this talk going on last year and all this free advice given by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp), he and the government would have been economizing. You would have thought that they would be cutting down.

I should like to put on the record what in fact transpired. The only figures available to me so far are for the first nine months of 1967, and they show increased expenditures during that period over the previous year. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures show an increase in the first nine months of 1967 over the first nine months of 1966 of no less than \$1 billion. This is an increase, not of 12½ per cent a year, which was the rate of increase for the first four years of the government's occupation of office: That increase was not good enough. These figures represent an increase of no less than 15 per cent. That is the kind of economy that this government has been indulging in, Mr. Speaker.

The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Benson) and the Minister of Finance told us very gaily last fall that we could expect all kinds of economies, not only in the next budget but also a great many cut-backs in the present year's expenditures. We pressed them about this and discovered that they made no cut-backs whatever in the present year's spending.

What is the position in the next fiscal year, Mr. Speaker? The government are making a great to-do about spending, they claim, only 4½ per cent more than this year. If you add the main expenditures and the supplementary estimates together and compare the two years, Mr. Speaker, you will find that this coming year the government is planning to spend 8 per cent more than they have spent during the present year. That is the actual figure—8 per cent more.

Miss LaMarsh: Surely the hon. member, who was once a member of the privy council, realizes—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.