Interim Supply

[English]

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Chairman, I am truly sorry that I find myself having to take part in this debate once again.

An hon. Member: So are we.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Hon. members opposite apparently think this is a light matter and they can laugh about it. As far as I know, not one of them has stood up in recent days to take part in this debate. But they think it is a laughing matter and they joke. They laugh, these trained seals sitting on whatever brains they may have, if they have any at all.

As I said, I am truly sorry I have to take part in this debate again. I find myself deeply concerned about this situation. Members opposite can make fun of an hon. member of this house who is concerned about Canada's welfare. I am proud and pleased that my conscience is so disturbed that I must rise again in this house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): We on this side have been accused of just about everything. We are preventing civil servants from receiving their pay. We are trying to break down a proud future leader of the Liberal party. As another example of Tory vindictiveness we are accused of trying to cripple a young man with a great political future. Nothing is farther from my mind. What I am most concerned about is a principle which all of us in this country cherish—democracy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): What is the western alliance fighting for in Viet Nam? It is fighting for democracy, the principle for which men fought and died in the first and second world wars. We find ourselves in this very situation here in the House of Commons; yet members opposite laugh and joke. They think it is all a hoax. I say to them: sit there and joke all evening. Sit there and joke all day Monday. Sit there and laugh all day Tuesday. Sit there and make fun of me and of fellow members while the western alliance and the free world—

Miss LaMarsh: You will not be here Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I will be here Monday and I will be here Tuesday.

Miss LaMarsh: Dief will never make it, then.

[Mr. Caouette.]

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I am so concerned I may even make a fourth speech. I am so concerned I may even make a fifth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): There they sit. They laugh and joke even while men die in Viet Nam and Canadians risk their lives in Cyprus. Why do men risk their lives? Is it for democracy? I should like to think it is. That is what we Canadians are fighting for tonight. They may laugh at me but I will go ahead and say why I believe democracy is in question tonight.

Miss LaMarsh: May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Horner (Acadia): After I have had my 30 minutes. The minister might well use 30 minutes after I am through to explain her concern for democracy. She can ask me any question she likes. She can tell me what men are dying for in Viet Nam and why men are risking their lives in Cyprus. She can tell me why men have flown through all kinds of peril to the Congo.

Mr. Caouette: What about the civil servants?

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I hear the hon. member for Villeneuve talking. I should like him to read what the hon. member for Mégantic, a member of his own party, had to say. It is to be found at page 9564 of Hansard. I have so many things to say that I do not believe I will have enough time to read it. But I suggest as prescribed reading for the hon. member for Villeneuve that he should turn to page 9564 of Hansard of November 4 and see what the hon. member for Mégantic, a member of his own party had to say. I thought he outlined the position in which Canada finds itself and in which his party finds itself very well. And if I have any time left before my thirty minutes are over I will read it to the hon. member.

Mr. Caouette: What about the civil service?

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I will deal with the civil service before I am through. What are the facts behind the present debate? I feel so concerned, Mr. Chairman, that I must express my opinion about the way in which these facts strike me.

Mr. McIlraith: They obviously have not struck you.