

Interim Supply

burden of welfare expenditures and the like and would put us on the road to full employment, so that, in view of the many projects awaiting implementation in all parts of the country, we can be sure that under a Social Credit government we could even experience a serious labour shortage. What is obviously holding up the carrying out of those projects is the fantastic amount of interest paid annually on the debts—over \$2 billion—which has discouraged any effort to that effect. At present, any new credit or bank money issue is done directly through the producers, with the result that there is an increasing concentration of capital in the hands of a smaller and smaller group, now, it is consumption that should be financed first, but not the way it is being done at present by finance companies at the rate of 24 per cent.

Mr. Chairman, those proposals are acceptable to all the parties in the house and, if I may, I should like to call on members of the three old parties of social debit who are sincerely interested in changing our national economy "to put on the new man" as St. Paul used to say. On the eve of Christmas, I urge them very specially to abandon the old parties of social debit which have led our country into bankruptcy and join the Social Credit party which will lead Canada into an era of prosperity thanks to the wonderful opportunities of modern technique.

(Text):

Mr. Argue: Earlier today the Minister of Transport placed a statement before this house with regard to rail line abandonment and in the course of the discussion the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam said something to the effect that I should know something about abandonment. I noticed the hon. member leave the chamber a moment ago. I wish he was in his seat, because I should like to remind him and his colleagues in the house that he and I both had the honour to represent an area in Saskatchewan, he in the provincial legislature and I in the federal parliament for a number of years. When he decided to leave the provincial field, it was he who abandoned the people of Assiniboia as a candidate for the New Democratic party, not I as a candidate for the Liberal party. I ran in my own constituency. I do not say he abandoned the constituency of Regina. Rather, the people of the constituency of Regina abandoned the hon. member, and he had to seek shelter elsewhere in order to get into this chamber.

[Mr. Cote.]

Now we are all on edge this afternoon wondering whether we are going to hear from the Prime Minister. Yesterday afternoon the Leader of the Opposition delivered a most constructive speech in which he put forward certain proposals which, if they had been accepted, would have helped to expedite the business before this house, proposals which would have helped us to get on with the legislation which the government claims is so important. The Prime Minister rose a few seconds before five o'clock. Your Honour took notice of the clock, but the Prime Minister wished to make a statement and insisted, as best he could in those difficult circumstances. An effort was made a few minutes afterwards—after the Prime Minister had endeavoured to speak—by the Leader of the Opposition, who said this as reported in *Hansard* at page 2837:

Mr. Speaker, it should be possible to get these three measures through very quickly and I should like to suggest if they are through by half past five or a quarter to six we revert to interim supply.

To this the Prime Minister replied:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the sudden change of front and change of conscience, that offer is no longer acceptable.

We concluded those items by a quarter to six. The Prime Minister did not accept that offer. One wonders whether the Prime Minister really wanted to speak yesterday afternoon, or whether he was more pre-occupied in trying to play the role of martyr if he could pull it off. When the story got to the press this morning I suppose he came in this afternoon and said "Well, I have done the job. They are saying that I was stopped from speaking". The Prime Minister had the opportunity to speak yesterday afternoon, but he did not avail himself of that opportunity.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Argue: Then, of course, overnight something apparently happened to the Prime Minister's schedule. He was going to fly to Nassau, but Prime Minister Macmillan and President Kennedy had important discussions for which they needed additional time, and the Prime Minister's departure was very conveniently delayed for a number of hours. One would have thought that the Prime Minister, so anxious to speak yesterday afternoon and to answer the constructive speech of the Leader of the Opposition, would come into this house today and take the first opportunity of speaking. We are disappointed that he did not.

Mr. Churchill: You are just lucky.

Mr. Argue: The Minister of Veterans Affairs says we are lucky.

Mr. Churchill: I said that you are.