

*Interim Supply*

time. There will always be, of course, I think everyone will admit, occasions when certain matters arise, such as that which arose at the Easter recess or during the Cyprus crisis, and attention must be directed to them. I think every hon. member is adult enough to take this into consideration, and our rules and regulations must therefore make way for this type of emergency.

I am very pleased at some of the changes which are being made, and I think members of parliament are to be congratulated on their willingness to make them, particularly when the government does not seem in any way willing to co-operate or to make concessions. When an individual member of parliament makes a concession which the government does not, I think the newspapers could do the country a service by pointing out that the government is being irresponsible in taking such an attitude. Let me take an example. We play with estimates every Friday afternoon. I do not know why estimates are brought forward on Friday afternoons. Perhaps it is because cabinet ministers want to go away and decide that it is "Joe's" turn today. The government have not a chance in Hades of getting estimates passed on Friday afternoons, and they know it. I do not profess to be an expert on any subject, but I do not think it would be difficult for me to speak on the subject of, say, external affairs. All I would need to do is to read the newspaper and every Friday afternoon I could rise and make a speech on what I had read during the week about external affairs. But I think this would be difficult to do over a period of two or three days. My suggestion is that the government is being irresponsible in bringing forward estimates every Friday rather than concentrating on the legislation which they declare should have priority before the summer recess, and hammering away at such legislation until it is passed.

One of the major legislative items is redistribution. There is no question that the Conservative party has decided that redistribution is very important to them and is going to be fully discussed—and I think they have the right to discuss it. On the other hand, I think the government also have the right to expect this measure eventually to be passed. I suggest that the only way they can pass this measure is to bring it forward with whatever priority they wish to give it, state frankly their position to the house and the need for the legislation, and then leave it up to the responsibility of every hon. member in his own conscience to make his decision about it. I think the government shirks its responsibility in failing to do this.

[Mr. Peters.]

You will also be interested to note, Mr. Chairman, in looking over the 35 pieces of legislation which have been announced that there is no reference to a new flag. This was not considered. There are also many other items which I am sure the Prime Minister, if he were honest, would admit he has not a hope in Hades of getting through by September, even if we were to sit here June, July and August. I think the legislation listed is extensive enough, but all 35 items could not possibly be passed before the recess. I have seen some of them on the order paper for two years now and I do not think they will pass even at this session.

I was pleased to hear that the committee on procedure was able to make recommendations far reaching in scope and consented to by all members of the house, as I understand it. After discussing them in caucus there was general agreement with them. But I ask you, Mr. Chairman, did the Prime Minister sit in at his caucus when they were discussed, and did he agree that these concessions were of some value to him? What is the Prime Minister and the government willing to offer us? Too many times members of the press will say that a certain member of parliament, who is doing something they do not like, is holding up legislation. I noted a very amusing occurrence the other day where a long list of remarks made during another debate was unrolled so as to highlight the fact that there had been considerable discussion in a particular field. But have the press asked the government what it wants to accomplish this session, or what it wants to accomplish before the recess, and when the recess will be?

I was accused, Mr. Chairman, of having had some interest in the situation which developed at Easter. I would inform the house now that I also have some interest in developing a situation relating to our summer recess. I have always been offended by the fact that the government are able to hold to the head of an individual member the threat of losing his holiday at the expense of what he considers the interests of his constituents. Since I have been a member of this house there has never yet been an occasion when just before a recess, whether it be for one day, one week, a summer recess or the end of the session, the government did not bring in a number of items of legislation which were not expected to pass prior to the offer of a vacation which, it is suggested, should be given speedy consideration.

I think this is unfair and that the House of Commons and the people of Canada have a right to know the government's agenda for the session, both in the legislative and in the