

Interim Supply

greater efficiency, and it is better for a country to have only one authority instead of three quarrelling about priority.

Mr. Habel: Who will spend the most money?

Mr. Gauthier: On the economical aspect, all Canadians are astounded at the thought that one quarter of the national budget is poured into national defence, or should I say, into international defence, because our soldiers serve internationally more than nationally. If we can cut expenses, if the minister of defence is successful through this transformation, in reducing the military budget by 30 to 40 per cent, we shall say: Good for you, sir, you made a good move.

We regret that the debate on interim supply had to turn out this way, and we are very surprised to see the Conservatives carry on such a filibuster, which reminds us of the one they carried on concerning the flag. Our Canadian flag still rankles in their minds, and they do not want to swallow our Canadian defence policy. Every time the word "royal" is removed, they have a cerebral thrombosis.

I say to the minister, be a good doctor, and if you have decided on the operation, carry it out, and if your government had to impose closure in the flag debate, let it use the same means today, because we have no right to let the people suffer because of a few sentimental Tories. Thousands of civil servants are waiting for their pay cheques, and it is your duty to do them justice. The Conservatives say: the interest of the country is at stake. According to what I saw on those days, I am more and more convinced that only a few private interests are involved, and they are the real cause of the fight carried on by the Conservatives.

As time goes on, the more I read the article written by Marcel Pepin in the newspaper *Le Droit*, the more I find that he is not that mad. If the Conservatives carry on for a few days, and if certain persons continue to sit in the public galleries, I will conclude that Mr. Pepin is right from beginning to end.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Pepin wrote in *Le Droit* an article which has been placed in the official record of the house on October 20. As can be seen on page 8890, right-hand column, Mr. Pepin wrote the following:

Certain retired admirals have vowed that the navy would remain what it has always been, that is, British and Protestant. The Conservative, outburst of passion, against Mr. Paul Hellyer, Minister of National Defence, is the work of two retired admirals who have not swallowed the appointment of General Jean-V. Allard as head of the integrated forces, with full authority over the navy.

[Mr. Gauthier.]

That explanation was given to us by no other than an English-speaking military man, well aware of the situation.

The two rebels are Rear Admiral William Landymore, dismissed by Mr. Hellyer for insubordination, and his predecessor, Admiral Brock.

The latter directed from the public gallery the attack of the Conservative member Terry Nugent against the hon. Mr. Hellyer, Wednesday.

I remember, Mr. Chairman, that before being elected to this house, I once sat in the public galleries. As I knew nothing of the rules, I was taking notes in a note-book. At one moment, an attendant, a constable warned me that one could not take notes in the public galleries. I understood that the rules were very strict. One is not entitled to take notes or to circulate newspapers, as far as I could see.

Now I was saying to myself, while sitting here in my seat: No doubt the newspapermen are having a great deal of fun—with all the stir going on up there.

I say, Mr. Chairman, that you cannot have one law for the rich and another for the poor. If I was not allowed to take notes in the gallery at that time, it is not any more permissible for someone else to do so to-day, whether he is a government pensioner or not. He is not allowed to take notes and communicate with this assembly.

I believe it to be my duty to point out what I saw to the house. That is why, on reading that article, I told myself that journalists are not all blind, all nitwits. And Mr. Marcel Pépin continues:

Not only did he make signs to the member, but he also sent him messages during the debate. Witnesses have stated that Admiral Brock, who has been retired for three years, made a negative sign when Mr. Hellyer called on Mr. Nugent to put his seat at stake by making a specific charge of improper conduct.

Our informant maintains that half a dozen superior navy officers have been plotting at the Chester Club in Halifax since the appointment of General Allard.

The Chester Club, a classical WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant), style institution, groups retired admirals or other officers of the navy whose mission it is to keep the navy British in character.

● (7:20 p.m.)

Mr. Chairman, I say that if occult forces are to continue leading this government, it is far from ready to assume its responsibilities. I say also that the opposition is going along with those occult forces and that we must expose them. We have been elected to work for the people and we must not allow those occult forces, whatever they are called, to influence