

*Business of the House*

important matters, and with the estimates scarcely touched, I am quite sure that one can understand and perhaps sympathize with a hard-pressed Prime Minister and a weary government.

May I just say this before I resume my seat. This announcement will now give the people of Canada a chance to stand up and be counted on the straight question whether or not they want the kind of socialism which prevails in Russia, the kind of socialism which is preached by the C.C.F., or the kind of socialism that is too frequently practised by the present government in power.

**Mr. Howe:** You will give them the Tory stuff.

**Mr. Graydon:** This government, Mr. Speaker, is afraid to face the house, afraid to wait until fall, and has been chased to the people by those same people who believe it is time for a change.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Who wrote that for the hon. member? He did not.

**Mr. Graydon:** You can take a look at it.

**Mr. Sinclair:** George Drew.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I think the house and the country will appreciate the frankness of the Prime Minister tonight. As he has said, the people of Canada have the right at this time to elect a government which will be representative of all Canada, including the new province of Newfoundland. What I rose to say was that since the Prime Minister spoke of the desire of giving people such as teachers, preachers, businessmen and their families who might otherwise be away for a summer election, the opportunity of voting in their own constituencies, I was hoping that he would actually announce the date of the election so that we might know that they would have the opportunity at least before July 1.

I merely want to say that so far as we are concerned as a democratic party in this country, we believe that opportunities of this

kind given to the people are valuable both to the country and to this House of Commons. I am not going to indulge in a political speech. All I can say is that the people of Canada will have the choice, and I hope that they will choose wisely, progressively and well.

**Some hon. Members:** They will.

**Mr. Low:** I had hoped that the government would see fit to complete the business of the session before calling an election. I do believe that the majority of the people of the country, while they do not relish continuing long in an upset, uncertain situation, appreciate having their representatives tuck in the edges and complete the year's business as it should be. However, since the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has given a lengthy series of reasons why an election should be held at the present time, I just say on behalf of our group in this house that we shall welcome the reference to the people because I believe they have the right to say whether under present circumstances the present government should be returned—

**Mr. MacNicol:** There is no danger of that.

**Mr. Low:** —or some other government be sent back here. There is only one thing which the Prime Minister has omitted, as the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell) said, namely, the date of the election. Seriously, that leaves us in a kind of uncertain position. I think he has the date in mind and I am just wondering whether he will not give it to us.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** It would be quite improper for me to announce the date of the election until His Excellency has accepted the advice we shall tender at the end of the week to dissolve parliament. I said I thought that the election should be held as early as possible. If hon. members will refer to the elections act they will see that with dissolution coming at the end of the week it would leave it possible to have an election on June 27.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.47 p.m.