

Alleged Lack of Government Leadership

get anything through; they will not get their estimates through." That has been the attitude throughout.

Social security? We want to bring about an opportunity to have portable pensions under way in co-operation with the provinces. We want an opportunity in this house to bring in a program for a contributory old age security plan on the basis of survivor benefits. It cannot be done without an amendment to the constitution. In view of the opposition of one of the provinces I feel that we should now give consideration to bringing about the adoption of such a plan without survivor benefits in order that we may carry out that which we have tried to, namely an improved and beneficent social security program under which you and I will contribute during our earning years up to a date when we become pensionable.

In addition, the hon. member for Red Deer asked: "What are your further plans?" I think one problem that has to be met is the question of urban redevelopment by means of a program in that connection. That is something that affects almost every member of this house. The constituency of the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McGee) covers an area that was farm land when I was a boy and today it is settled with 250,000 people. There must be co-operation with the provinces. A plan must be worked out. We want the opportunity to present this kind of thing. We want to get the legislation on the order paper passed—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): And a lot more.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—and, as the Minister of Justice says, a lot more. You say: "What would you do?" I ask you, what can we do but invoke closure, and I shall never adopt closure because I remember the way the official opposition crucified parliament. If our hands are tied they are not tied by the other two parties but by the official opposition. They bear the responsibility. Oh, they can smile. The Leader of the Opposition smirks—

Mr. Pearson: No, smiles.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—but at the same time he knows who it is that is holding up legislation. We put it before parliament. They hold it up. We place before you our views on defence.

An hon. Member: Which ones?

Mr. Diefenbaker: We will bring in the new estimates—they are available—within a period of two weeks.

Mr. Nowlan: One week.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Within a period of one week.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Nowlan: They are available today but only in one language.

Mr. Diefenbaker: We will bring down a budget within four weeks or so—I think within four weeks.

Mr. Nowlan: By the last day of February or before.

Mr. Diefenbaker: By the end of February. I thought the opposition wanted a budget. They do not want a budget, Mr. Speaker. They are afraid of what it will contain.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: They do not want it. Oh, they will go to the people. Do you know what they thought I would do? They thought I would recommend dissolution and then they would say: They denied us a budget, they denied us the opportunity to pass legislation, they denied all these things. I have put it on their doorstep now.

I can understand their feeling. You know, they are conscience stricken over what happened to the Canadian economy. They are fearful of what will be in the budget, so they come along and challenge on the same old grounds and in the same old words, the same vocabulary, that they used before we were in office a matter of a few weeks. They do not want a budget. They came up with the idea that we should use Governor General's warrants instead of supply. We are giving them the chance to permit us placing the rest of our legislative program before the house, in addition to what we already have on the order paper—a program which is needed in every part of this country.

The Leader of the Opposition quoted Cromwell or rather misquoted him. I say, using Cromwell's words: Do something to assure Canada legislation that we will pass with your assistance, and which we cannot pass unless you co-operate.

Mr. Pearson: Who said that?

An hon. Member: Cromwell never heard of Canada.

Mr. Pearson: Jimmy Cromwell.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Do you want to frustrate our program? Certainly you do. Do you want to prevent a budget? They want to prevent us, Mr. Speaker, from completing the national development act, and they have done so. We have been five years in office and development in all parts of the country has been greater than under any government in the same period. We want to complete the national economic development board act. What good