

Interim Supply

sides and keeping everybody happy; you might offend people you do not allow to take the medals but you please the ones you do.

This system of awards announced an April 17 which, as I have stated, was brand new to all those in the Liberal party, or perhaps I should say to all those in the rank and file of the Liberal party, has been given a lot of thought. There is no doubt about that. We are told there will be three types of awards. This means we shall no longer be able to talk about free and equal Canadians.

Under this system, as I say, we are to have three types of awards, which means there will be four kinds of Canadians. We are to have the companions of the order, the medal of courage, the medal of service. After that will come the fourth group—the hoi polloi. There is, in fact, a fifth, because the Governor General is now given the title of Right Honourable, this on the recommendation of the government, or, specifically, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

So instead of having free and equal Canadians in the future we shall have five classes. We shall have the Governor General, to start with, with the title—"title" is the word used—of Right Honourable. After that come the Companions of the Order of Canada, the holders of the medal of courage, the medal of service and so on. We shall have five divisions and we shall all be Canadians and free, but we sure won't be equal.

I liked the announcement that the method of recommendation or selection to be used is to be based strictly on merit. That is the way we appoint senators in this country.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cowan: We all know the quality we have in the other place. The same system as is used to pick senators will be used to pick the Companions of the Order of Canada whose initials, in short, are C-O-O-C: pronounced "kook".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cowan: We are then told that by limiting the number of recipients it is intended to maintain the quality of these awards. That is how we preserve such high quality in the Senate. There are only 102 of them and by limiting the number we have the very high quality we enjoy in the other place.

I have mentioned these two announcements of policy, which hit us like a thunderclap from on high. If we do not automatically

[Mr. Cowan.]

support these policies we are rebels, dissidents, trouble makers, disturbers, heretics and so on. One is certainly not asked in advance to give an opinion, because it may be in opposition to whatever has been decided by a few other people.

I am pointing out that the caucus is by-passed, that the party policy conventions are by-passed. And it is the simplest thing in the world to begin by-passing parliament itself. We hear a lot about unity in diversity and diversity in unity and flexibility with firmness or firmness with flexibility. Well, I am giving you a little talk on dictatorship in democracy or democracy and dictatorship, call it what you will.

We have had a little discussion in the last few days on a bill brought forward by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. This has not yet been proclaimed; it is not yet law, and any comment I might make in the next few minutes has to do only with the regulations promulgated on March 30 by order in council of the Right Honourable—no, pardon me, by the Administrator of the vice-regal office. I think it is interesting to bear in mind that interim supply was passed on March 22, the last day before the Easter vacation. We adjourned that night. March 24 was Good Friday, March 26 was Easter Sunday, March 27 was Easter Monday and on March 30 down comes a crop of regulations in connection with manpower. It has been proven in the course of able remarks by the hon. member for Prince, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, the hon. member for York South. The hon. member for Peace River and others in this house during the last few days that here we have a case of regulations being put into effect and money being spent without parliament having passed the necessary legislation.

I have here in my hand, in case anybody wants to discuss it in detail, Bill C-278, an act respecting the occupational training of adults. That is what is printed on the front of it, together with the words "First reading, March 3, 1967". Then I have here the records of our *House of Commons Debates* and I find that on March 22 we passed interim supply. The house rose, and on March 30 out came the regulations by order in council from Government House. So the cabinet goes merrily on their way, hoping that parliament will pass the legislation necessary to legalize what is being done. As I say, it has not yet been legalized since this bill is not yet an act of the Dominion of Canada.