

Mr. JAUQUES: It is not much use my attempting to say anything in five minutes. Unlike some other parties in this house, the Social Credit party has no facilities with the C.B.C. Perhaps the Acting Prime Minister might see to that, so that we can put our views before the people.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Your leader gets on the air periodically on free time.

Mr. JAUQUES: I have only time to make a protest. With respect to the foreign policy of this country the people of Canada are committed to policies of which they know nothing and on which they are not consulted, and which this house never discusses. That is a fact, and it is an outrage and a scandal. At this moment a peace conference is sitting in Paris and this house has not had one minute to discuss Canada's policy at the peace conference. We know nothing and we are not allowed to know anything except what we are told by a lot of commentators and newspaper correspondents who use a brush dipped in red ink to colour the news.

I had prepared a statement which I believe would have been a valuable addition to the debates of this house and would have given valuable information to the people outside the house. I might ask why it is that this particular department, the Department of External Affairs, is always the last to come up, ever since I have been in the house I think, and always the excuse is made: You cannot speak now, there is no time because we want to close the house to-night. It is amazing. We talk about a new social order, about world government, that Canada is going to take its share in international affairs, and so forth; yet there is not one word of discussion in this house. I suppose under the circumstances I cannot say anything more, except to register the strongest possible protest at the way this department is and has usually been left to the end, so that no discussion is possible. I can only say that it is not by accident.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Just before the vote carries I want to register in support of the other speakers, a strong protest against this most important subject coming in the dying days of the session. I believe it is wrong policy in these very serious times, when the issue in Canada is not east against west, or whether we shall have, say, socialism now in Canada, but is world reestablishment and world peace. Will the Acting Prime Minister assure us that when the house meets next January it will have an opportunity to discuss foreign affairs early in the session?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I am sorry to have to make any challenge against these protests of an arrangement having been made to bring these estimates on at this late date; but I have heard no one suggest what other matter that has been here dealt with should have been deferred in order to give consideration to these estimates. Hon. members must realize that parliament has been working pretty steadily, and I do not think there have been many things which hon. members would say should not have been dealt with, or should not have been dealt with when they were dealt with. I appreciate that hon. members would like an opportunity for a fuller debate. There can be that opportunity; if hon. members want to continue the session it can be done; but I do not wish to accept the suggestion that it is not by accident or by the ordinary happening and succession of events that we are in this position at this time.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I accept fully what the Acting Prime Minister has said. Nevertheless I would ask him whether he will try to see that this unfortunate—I do not think the word is too strong—situation does not occur again. It seems to me, in spite of the truth of all he has said, it could easily have been avoided if estimates were not left, and particularly these estimates, to this point. I leave it there. I think he will agree with what is said, that it is unfortunate that this matter, which may be and probably will be overwhelmingly more important than most of the things we have discussed, cannot be adequately dealt with. I suggest that on a future occasion it should have some precedence, and not come, as it so often does, at this stage, when we are in the dying hours of the session and must be reasonable and, as he says, forbearing with each other.

Mr. BENTLEY: I can see the Acting Prime Minister's point of view to some extent. But I remember that in the early days of this session there was a government resolution to set up a committee to discuss and come to an agreement on a Canadian flag, and we spent three days talking about whether we should set up the committee or not, when we could have done so in five minutes, because we had the committee anyway. Who was responsible I do not know, but those three days would be very valuable right now.

Mr. BRACKEN: I am not getting up to take part in the controversy over the situation existing at the moment. I appreciate fully the position the Acting Prime Minister is in. In recent weeks he has been endeavouring to bring this parliament to a close without depriving anyone of the opportunity to speak.