

Interim Supply

health and the interests of the Canadian people. Leave it to free enterprise, they say. Maybe that is why the government is holding up the Clark report and why the Minister of National Health and Welfare has not yet completed his study of that document. Possibly he believes free enterprise will find a solution. We remember how in 1957 and 1958 the Prime Minister was almost obscenely in haste to have this commission established. Out of this we got the Clark report which, ever since then, has been languishing in a bottom drawer in the office of the minister of health and welfare.

That document concerns the health and welfare of the people of this nation and the neglect shown of it is an indication of how little regard the government has for these things.

Without getting into the question of national health schemes in this regard I merely want to point out that the Prime Minister with his propensity for putting things off, for procrastinating, and acting like an ostrich in respect to most issues, in appointing a royal commission is doing nothing more than providing a gimmick to cloud over the basic issue of health needs in this nation and to assure that the Prime Minister will be able to go around the country at election time stating how he appointed a royal commission to study something that does not really need further study. If the Prime Minister and his colleagues want to conduct an election, the next or any other, on the basis of free enterprise versus democratic socialism, then I think they will not be telling the truth, when they gloat about free enterprise, if they do not compare what they say with the way in which they have treated the general consumer and general public in the last three or four years. They have given only casual, if any consideration, to the needs and desires of the people of this nation and have concerned themselves only with the blackening of the names of certain public servants in order to ensure that they get their own way.

Mr. Regier: I understand that we are now asked to vote interim supply to the government of the day. If the Prime Minister is to be taken at his word and if, in the light of decisions arrived at in the other place, he is now going to go to the country with an appeal to the people of Canada, then our party of course will be immediately prepared to grant interim supply.

An hon. Member: You are responsible people.

Mr. Regier: Yes, we are responsible people.

If there is going to be an appeal to the people of Canada on the basis of the dare

that was put by members of the other place; if there is going to be an appeal to the nation at all, when we will be most happy to grant whatever interim supply is necessary in order to carry on the normal business of government in the interval until a new parliament is able to meet. However, if the government is now asking for interim supply without any intention of appealing to the people of Canada to render a verdict on the record of this government then we feel we must oppose a request of this kind at this time, because the people of Canada in 1957 and again in 1958 were given very high expectations indeed.

Granted, it was the Liberal government that brought us into this mess with conditions which cause most Canadians very serious concern, but the Conservatives under the leadership of our present Prime Minister assured the people of Canada that they had the answer. What a horrible disaster this assurance has now turned out to be.

I am old enough to remember the assurances given the Canadian electorate by, I think an even greater orator in 1930, the late Right Hon. R. B. Bennett. He stated he would resolve all our problems and blast his way into the markets of the world. I can well remember a meeting in the Third avenue United Church in Saskatoon where all the front seats were reserved for the unemployed who were given a special arm band. Well, we ended up in 1935 with more unemployment than we had in 1930.

Upon looking at the accomplishments of this government from 1957 until 1961 I would say their record is no better than the record of the Conservative party under the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, in those comparable years from 1930 to 1934. I hope this government is not going to impose upon the Canadian people one more year of Tory rule. I hope we are able to persuade this government to go to the country now and not wait until the end of their term of office.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Regier: I say this without any political considerations in mind but only because I have the welfare of the Canadian people at heart—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Regier: I know how difficult times were under the Bennett administration, following which the Canadian people finally got rid of that previous Conservative government. Today we do not have a government of elected representatives of the people, but a one-man government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Regier: I am informed by reliable authorities that the budget was concealed, that