

Mr. Caouette: That is quite true.

[Translation]

But I would like to point out to the hon. member that Bill No. C-243 is precisely the one to which he is now referring. Does the hon. member need to filibuster the passage of interim supply to enable him to discuss Bill No. C-243 which has not yet been submitted to the house for consideration?

[English]

Mr. Nugent: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Caouette: Yes.

Mr. Nugent: Would the hon. member not agree that it would be helpful if he had some facts before voting on that bill?

Mr. Caouette: Which bill?

Mr. Nugent: The military bill.

Mr. Caouette: Is that Bill No. C-243?

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Bill No. C-243 has not yet been discussed. The member should wait until the discussion and the vote on the said bill and then—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[English]

Mr. Nugent: I ask the hon. gentleman, do you not have to have facts so that you can discuss this question? A discussion does not give you facts. Do you not want facts to be able to discuss it properly?

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, has the hon. member any facts concerning the army, to block the payment of salaries to federal civil servants? Has he those facts, now? And yet they have been blocking those payments for a week, when we are sure that Bill No. C-243 will be considered in committee. We could always block it on third reading, if we are not satisfied with it. We could always ask for a vote or move amendments. Surely, the hon. member is aware of the fact that we can move amendments.

Mr. Boulanger: He asks questions and he finds that funny.

Mr. Caouette: Certainly, it is a fact. An hon. member points out to me that the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Nugent) asks questions and finds that funny.

Interim Supply

Mr. Chairman, a while ago I referred to the note that I have just received: "Future Conservative leader"; signed "the admiral"—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

● (8:20 p.m.)

Mr. Caouette: What admiral is it? I do not know. The note may come from a Conservative corner, because they all look like admirals tonight. Admirals.

Mr. Chairman, all I am asking the Conservatives—not as true-blue Conservatives, but as reasonable members who think before they act, instead of acting before they think—is that interim supply be passed. When Bill No. C-243 is considered—this does not mean we agree with every provision it contains—we shall have every opportunity to discuss the bill, to vote for or against it. Just as the Conservatives, we shall be free to discuss every section of the bill in committee. Why then maintain this filibuster to prevent the passage of interim supply?

Mr. Chairman, both sides of the house may try to play politics with this. The Liberals will say: the Conservatives blocked our efforts; and the Conservatives will say: this was the only opportunity we had to discuss unification of the three armed services in Canada. On both counts, the Conservatives and the Liberals are lying. The truth is that we must pass interim supply; then Bill No. C-243 will enable us to discuss unification of our three armed forces, and then the bill dealing with Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited will also come up for consideration, and we will have to decide whether the main line will run through my good friend's city, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters).

Mr. Lewis: There will be no bill.

Mr. Caouette: There will certainly be a resolution.

Mr. Lewis: No.

Mr. Caouette: The French text of the agreement reached in this regard was tabled this afternoon, and the hon. member will have the opportunity to read it.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we must assume our responsibilities, as members of Parliament, and we must be concerned about those who are presently in need of their salary to live on, to meet their obligations, and to be respected as citizens should in our country, Canada.