

*Interim Supply*

to be concerned about that. I was always quite pleased when I heard the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, when he was a minister, stand up and say the establishment in his department was an almost insurmountable barrier to his doing anything in his department. I believe that if other ministers in the government had been consulted there would have been others who would have agreed that the establishment represented a large, blank wall which they could not penetrate.

In my opinion, the present government is not trying to penetrate it because they believe this is the way government should operate. I feel the public should know this soon, or they will fail to realize why members of parliament are not able to do the things members are expected to do. The public have a preconceived idea of what members of parliament should be accomplishing. Under the system we have, members are not going to be able to accomplish these things. This raises the whole problem of how we are going to supervise the establishment when it is insulated in the cabinet and inside parliament itself—as it obviously should not be, because the minister will be protecting people and philosophies over which he has no control. Many members do not even realize this situation exists.

I should like to change the subject for a moment to refer to a situation about which hon. members may be unaware. Several months ago a number of meetings were held with members of the Internal Economy Commission. It was decided that some change would have to be made in the method of obtaining typewriters for this establishment. Most members of parliament could not care less about typewriters in any office. I sympathize with them because that is about the way I feel. I use the Biblical method of typing: Seek and ye shall find.

Hon. members may not know, but a few years ago it was decided the House of Commons would use typewriters to be supplied and serviced by the printing bureau. These typewriters were to be replaced every year. They were to be moved from this section of government into other branches of government. Of course this method broke down. The House of Commons found itself in a position of having to replace the typewriters at the end of their contract. It was decided, too, that members would be able to apply for electric typewriters.

[Mr. Peters.]

• (1:30 p.m.)

After the price range for typewriters was decided, a demonstration of a number of typewriters was arranged. In my opinion, one of the companies abused the confidence of the house. The I.B.M. Company demonstrated two typewriters, one of which was a 15 inch model, similar to the typewriters now in use. The other typewriter companies demonstrated this type of machine and the secretaries went to look at these typewriters. They decided what type they wanted. It was agreed that the companies would not pressure individual members or their staff in the offices to take a particular type of typewriter over some other make. This agreement was broken by the representatives of I.B.M. That company had as many as a dozen salesmen going from office to office putting pressure on the members. I do not think this should have been done.

Difficulty arose when orders were given to the various companies. The I.B.M. Company decided that they could not supply a 15-inch model in the particular price range, but only their 11-inch model. The 11-inch model is a little bigger than a *Hansard* envelope, though the *Hansard* envelopes are not first class envelopes and vary in size. Some of them fit, some of them do not.

I suggest that this company came before members of parliament and their staff and demonstrated a 15-inch machine of one particular type. Then when orders were submitted the company said that only an 11-inch machine was satisfactory, a machine which no one was shown and which was not demonstrated. In my opinion they misrepresented the situation very greatly.

I suggest to hon. members that they should inform their staffs to cancel these orders. I am sure that the Internal Economy Commissioners of the house would be willing to cancel the orders for these typewriters because they will be unsatisfactory for the jobs the secretaries of members are being asked to perform. In one or two cases members have agreed to do this, but I suggest that every member should so inform his staff if this typewriter, which they have not seen, is unsatisfactory.

There is a model in the stenographic pool. If they are not satisfied with the other machine, they should so instruct the Director of Administration and cancel their orders for the machines they are going to purchase. If this company is dishonest with members of