

*Motion Respecting House Vote*

of his party, particularly with respect to international affairs, on the record of this house. I have received telegrams and messages from Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal on this issue. I urge that when this debate is concluded the leader of the official opposition place his party's policy on the record of this house so that the Canadian people will have an opportunity to discuss it.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, after assessing the situation from all angles and in a strictly non-partisan and statesmanlike manner, as a representative of the people not only of Kootenay West but of Canada and not as a delegate but as a person who has to use his own judgment as a result of assessing the facts, I intend to let my conscience guide me when the vote is taken.

## [Translation]

**Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, taking the floor this afternoon my first impulsion would be to reply to the injurious, unintelligent and unfair remarks made earlier by the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) about the report of the Laurendeau-Dunton commission. I even think that it would be taxing the patience of the house to try to talk to deaf people who do not want to hear and to open the eyes of those who do not want to see the facts. I simply suggest that I am one of those who are shocked to see that the hon. member for York East and I might add, the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) insist on remaining in the Liberal party when they should sit with the independents to complete the spectrum of independentists of all the parties and also possibly give me the opportunity to bawl them out to my heart's content from morning till night.

Mr. Speaker, even if I am used to making my remarks in my mother tongue, this afternoon in order to answer the hon. member for York East in a more objective way and to show that, in my province, we are not narrow-minded, I shall make my remarks in English, in the hope that my English-speaking colleagues, who can do the same—and there is a good number of them who can—will have the opportunity to show the same broad-mindedness by expressing their faith concerning bilingualism in Canada.

● (5:00 p.m.)

## [English]

Mr. Speaker, I am one of those who are inclined to believe that enough has been said in this debate. However, it might also be

[Mr. Herridge.]

appropriate at this time to present a cold-blooded and independent appraisal of the situation. If I were a Liberal this afternoon I would be inclined to ask myself whether my face is red after the bungling of last Monday, the loose strategy and the demonstration of overconfidence which the Liberals have shown in thinking that members of this house will always vote with the government because none of them is anxious to vote for an election.

Perhaps I should also ask whether my face is red because I was absent from the house on Monday night, although I must say that I had a good reason, namely, that a minister of the crown was present in my riding on that day and we in that part of the country have a tradition of hospitality. Whenever a V.I.P. comes we try to be there to extend to him our warmest hospitality. Whenever a minister of the crown or a leader of any party in the house honours us by coming to my home town I believe it is my duty to greet him there in the name of my constituents. I do not have to apologize for not being here last Monday because I think my record of attendance can be compared with that of anyone in the house. Had I been in the house on that day I would have voted against the 5 per cent increase in the income tax for reasons which I will explain at some other time.

There is another explanation I should like to give. I notice that several times newspapermen have labelled me as Liberal-Independent or Independent Liberal. I would like to remind them that I ran as a straight Independent. They might be surprised to learn this because I support the Liberal government most of the time. The reason is that this is what my constituents have asked me to do. If the Conservatives were in power I would do the same, assuming of course that they would not blunder as the Liberals have.

I have not been sent here to oppose the government. My constituents realize that we are living in critical days. They feel that now is the time to co-operate. If they had been certain that the Liberals or the Conservatives would win in the last election they would have asked me to stand with the winning party, but since they know this government is a minority government they asked me to try to co-operate with those who have been elected. When unacceptable measures are brought in such as the 5 per cent increase in income tax, my constituents ask me to vote against them. In this case I had good reason to do so.