

Interim Supply

success about two years ago when, on February 18, 1965, another very complicated bill on transportation was referred to a standing committee for examination in detail before it came up for second reading in the House of Commons. If the government refuses to accede to our request—which is only a request for information to which this house is entitled—then I will remind the minister of the Liberal government of 1956 which refused information in the same way in which he is doing it. I do not think he will get away with it any more than did C.D. Howe in the election of 1957. I think the minister's action will rebound on the government in exactly the same way, and the government certainly deserves it.

If the government refuses to give us the information for which we have so justifiably asked, it will demonstrate that it has learned nothing in the last ten years, since its predecessor's autocratic handling of another bill called the pipe line bill of 1956. If the government should persist in its present arrogant attitude, it will demonstrate once again that it is no better qualified to govern this country than was the government of 1957, which the people of Canada threw out because it had been there too long and had become too arrogant. This government has not been in office nearly that long, but today it is equally or more arrogant. I am sorry to see my old friend, the minister, leading the charge. I have great respect for him, and I hate to see him try to obtain his objectives by doing what he is doing to the armed forces, which I and many members of this house love very dearly because we happen to have been fortunate enough to have served with them, and we know how good they are. I believe they are entitled to far better treatment than they are getting today.

In conclusion, I urge the minister to be man enough and to be big enough, to say "I can do something a little differently and a little better". It is easy to be stubborn and arrogant, and to say "I won't, I won't, I won't. I think I have the votes behind me, and I will do what I want to do". That is what C. D. Howe did and that is why his government was defeated in the next election. The same thing will happen to the minister and to the government. I ask the minister to be big enough, and to be man enough, to reverse his stand. It takes a big man to do it, and we will congratulate him on it. We will not jeer or cheer or do any of the things he might expect. We will congratulate him sincerely on reversing his decision,

[Mr. Hees.]

because he will be doing it as a democrat and not as an arrogant autocrat, which he is today. I urge the minister to recall the committee and provide parliament with the information without which we, the representative of the Canadian people, can in no way do the job we were sent here to do; that is, pass judgment on the principle of the unification bill, one of the most important bills to have ever come before parliament.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, I wonder—

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): How come a fellow who knows all the answers is now asking a question?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if my hon. friend will now answer a question which I attempted to put to him earlier? He has mentioned the necessity of preparedness in maintaining a strong military capability in Canada as a contribution to the maintenance of world order. Does he feel that in order to maintain this capability and effectiveness Canada should continue to make available to the members of its armed forces the atomic weapons which they would need in the event of an emergency?

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): That is not a question.

Mr. Hees: I would agree with the view taken today, because this is 1966. I have not studied the matter recently, but I would say that the view taken by the chiefs of staff committee on this matter would be a sound one.

● (4:30 p.m.)

Mr. Hellyer: What is it?

Mr. Hees: I should like to hear it. The Minister of National Defence is asking us about some of the things that we cannot find out from him, even though we have asked him over and over again.

Mr. Hellyer: You are asking Admiral Brock.

Mr. Hees: Let me tell the minister that if he will call this committee together, and if he has questions to ask about certain steps which should or should not be taken in reshaping our armed forces, then we have the people who would be glad to attend the committee and tell the minister how to run his department. They would tell him how to run the armed forces of Canada in a way which would make the people of Canada and the armed forces of Canada proud, and would raise their