

*Interim Supply Bill*

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): Then it is understood that the matter will be looked into with special reference to the maritime provinces, where the people have to submit to a ration of two gallons per coupon, and that if there is going to be relief, or if there is to be no relief, an announcement will be made. If there is to be relief, as I am hopeful will be the situation, the people of the maritimes should be told when that will come into effect, and I hope before July 1. I am appealing to the minister now as a fellow Nova Scotian to investigate the matter from the point of view of the interests of our province, to take up the matter with the Minister of Munitions and Supply, the oil controller, the big gasoline dealers and others, and to see that some announcement is made in order that the people in Nova Scotia who believe there is discrimination against them may have something definite on which to base their plans and carry on their business.

Mr. MacNICOL: I have been waiting for all these hon. members who have been speaking about the farmers to say something about the poor folk in the congested cities. Not having heard anyone say a word on behalf of the humble people in the congested centres of our great cities, I am going to say a word for them. Neither motor cars nor trucks are owned by the common people who live in the congested centre of Toronto; but I have seen, as I am sure other hon. members have someone come on Sunday with a motor truck into which they load four or five families, to take the kiddies and their parents out along the lake shore drive so that they may have a dip in the lake. What are they going to do on Sunday, if it is a day like to-day, when it is hard enough for grown people to withstand the heat? What are they going to do on Sunday if they cannot go in these trucks out along the lake shore? If there is to be any loosening up, I think it should be extended to those people too. I want to give the hon. member for Lake Centre credit for bringing up this matter to-day, though quite a number of other hon. members have tried to horn in on it. What is going to happen on Sunday if it is a day like this? If there is to be any loosening up for the farmers, as there should be, let us also have a little loosening up for the poor, humble people living in the congested area of our great cities.

Mr. COLDWELL: Since we are talking about the welfare of people generally, I suggest that the rules of this house should be changed so that on a day like this members of parliament may sit here without wearing their coats. I would also point out to the minister that when money is being spent

[Mr. Hilsley.]

some consideration should be given the staff of this house. I notice that we have attendants and guards here who are wearing thick, heavy, winter clothing, which on a day like this must be almost torture. I appeal to the minister to do something for the staff in order that they may be comfortably clad, and I hope that one of these days we may be permitted to attend in the hot weather without our coats.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Is the minister really ready to do something about these abuses which have been aired by several hon. members, in connection with this matter of allowing men to use trucks on Sundays when they have no other means of transportation? When a series of abuses has been brought to the attention of the minister it is not good enough for him to say, "Well, that comes under the oil controller, and he has found it necessary to do so-and-so." I just do not believe it is necessary for him to do this. I see no reason why it should be necessary to permit an injustice to exist at all in this country, if sufficient attention is given to the matter. Surely the abuses that have been mentioned by the hon. member for Cape Breton South and others are so flagrant that they should be attended to. Surely it is not necessary to have such things as those. Surely it is not necessary so to restrict the poor farmer in the Red River valley, who has nothing but a poor little old rattletrap of a car that has been changed into a sort of truck, which is his only means of getting to church or doing anything else on Sunday, while other people are permitted to have two cars. This strikes one as being so painfully unjust as to be almost revolting.

I have come in contact with one or two other matters coming under this oil controller or fuel controller which also strike me as being very unjust. The question has been raised in my mind as to whether this parliament has any control at all over these controllers. Is it a recognized practice that once a man is appointed a controller he is no longer responsible to this house, and that the minister to whose department that controller belongs is no longer responsible for the behaviour of that man? If so, then we must acknowledge that in this country responsible government has ceased to exist. If that is necessary, all right; but I do not believe it really is necessary. I was waiting to hear the minister give some indication that he will bring a little pressure to bear, in response to the expressed will of members of this house, and not be content merely to talk about the matter. I recall the time when the minister was contemplating the imposition of