

before yesterday we could not do anything, and it is the taxpayers' money which the Conservatives say they want to save that we spend lightheartedly like that.

• (3:00 p.m.)

Who are those who are afraid of assuming their responsibilities? Let the leader of the official opposition answer that.

Mr. Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic party said at noon that the government was asking us to repudiate Monday's vote. I do not understand very well what the leader of the New Democratic party meant by that. There is nothing in the motion asking us to repudiate Monday's vote. On the contrary, the Prime Minister stated at noon that Monday's vote will not be put again, that Bill No. C-193 will not be re-introduced in the house. He merely asked that Monday night's vote be not regarded as a vote of non-confidence.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, we do not want to play into the hands of the older political parties, even if the press in general tries to have everyone be a party to the same game.

I was reading in *Le Devoir* this morning an article signed or written by Mr. Pierre-C. O'Neil, and I quote:

Mr. Réal Caouette in a rather ambiguous statement said that he did not consider as a vote of non-confidence—

—It seems to me that this is not ambiguous—

—the vote taken on Monday night and that consequently he reserved himself the right to vote for the government when its motion of confidence is put to the house within a few days. And while he was saying this, some members of his party were still giving to understand that they might be away on voting day.

We are eight in the house today, I believe, and we will be eight when the vote is taken.

As soon as this indecision among the members of Ralliement Cr ditiste was known, after its leader Mr. R al Caouette reportedly had an interview with Mr. Jean Marchand the day before, the Conservative and N.D.P. members intimated that they would not drive the government against the wall.

This is the information given out to the public, which will come to the conclusion that the leader of the Ralliement Cr ditiste had a meeting with the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I had a meeting last night with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration on the television program "Tirez au Clair", and that is the only place where we met or had any discussion at all.

27053—437½

Motion Respecting House Vote

Mr. Speaker, these are news which certain unscrupulous journalists give out to the public. I realize that I have never been a great favourite with the press, but I do not care about that. I do not ask for preferential treatment from the press. Since we managed to play them a trick in 1962, we will play them another trick at the next opportunity, perhaps within the next three weeks, perhaps in the next five or six months.

Mr. Speaker, such a piece of news broadcast through the province spreads confusion. Now, we are here today to clarify the situation.

At this stage, I will quote from the speech delivered on Wednesday, February 21, by the leader of the New Democratic party, as reported on page 6904 of *Hansard*:

In our system of parliamentary government the most important right is the right to impose taxes.

"To impose taxes". Then, the leader of the New Democratic party agrees with the leader of the Conservative party as well as with the leader of the government. Our most important right is the right to impose taxes.

Then, further on, and I quote:

This government has been denied that right by a majority of members voting on Bill No. C-193. Some hon. Members: Hear, Hear.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: And this morning, Mr. Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic party suggested the following: Instead of taxing the low wage-earners, let us tax the large undertakings, the large corporations, the contractors, such as those, for instance, who are prospecting for oil in the Canadian north and will spend \$11 million without knowing whether or not they will find anything. Let us tax those people, let us tax the producers, the large producers and we shall see an immediate increase in prices, as happens generally. Then, it is the little man who will have to pay; instead of paying a 5 per cent tax, he may have to take a 10 per cent price increase. Will he be better off then?

The leader of the New Democratic party was during 17 years premier of his own province. When did he remove a single tax? Of course, he tried to tax large corporations; only he drove them out of his own province and they set up business elsewhere.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.