

dive off a diving board better than the leader of our party and who figured that he could kiss away all the problems of Canada. That was his style of politicking from British Columbia to Newfoundland. He became Prime Minister on June 25, 1968.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but must advise him that his allotted time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Does the House give unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lundrigan: I remember coming into the House after the election and, like almost every Canadian, not knowing too much about the direction of this government or what it was capable of doing. I have had my fill of this man, who by his own definition is a young Canadian—who became our Prime Minister.

Mr. Woolliams: He is my age.

Mr. Lundrigan: The unemployment situation has reached crisis proportions—455,000 people are out of work today, the highest figure for August in the history of Canada. The wheat farmers of western Canada are making half the net income they made ten years ago.

An hon. Member: No, about a quarter.

Mr. Lundrigan: My colleague says that they make about a quarter. We have fishermen on the east coast who have been left so unprotected that people of every nationality are raping our fishing resources there. In the fall of 1970 we had a situation under which we invoked the War Measures Act. Inflation has been at almost 4 per cent over the last 12 months. It is running above that figure this year. We have an economy which because of the action of our neighbours to the south is in much greater danger now than it has been for several years. In part, that action was provoked by the contempt the leaders of the United States government feel for the leaders that Canada now has. It is a contempt for which one cannot blame them.

Now we have reached the ultimate situation. Government, which makes the law, is breaking the law. I should like to see this issue resolved in this House before we move to other legislation. I should like to see the issue resolved, with the co-operation of the Chair, during question period and by means of other procedures which we can adopt. This government must be forced to uphold the law. Even if it takes us another week, we must make sure that the government upholds the law and that it does not use any piece of legislation to blackmail the House of Commons and the people of western Canada. If this matter is allowed to drag out until the legislation passes in any form, even in an acceptably amended form, you might as well close the doors of the House of Commons.

Mr. Boulanger: Don't exaggerate.

Withholding of Grain Payments

Mr. Lundrigan: "Don't exaggerate," the hon. member says. Is there any use our continuing to pass legislation if there is one example in this history of Canada of legislation not being upheld? If there were to be one such example—and we are talking about it—and if this state of affairs is allowed to continue, we might as well resign our seats, go back to our constituencies and let the Canadian Parliament die a natural death.

I should like to see colleagues who are experienced in parliamentary practices bring in motions and adopt procedures which will force this government to pay its debts under the law. And that should be done before we move on to further legislation. I should like to see motions of non-confidence put forward in the House. I want to see members of the House of Commons forced to stand in their place and say whether they will vote for upholding the laws of Canada or not—because Mr. Speaker, that is the basic issue here.

Everyone in the House knows where we stand, Mr. Speaker. We have not yet heard where members opposite stand. Either they have not been permitted to take part in the debate or they have lost interest in the whole process. If the support that the minister, who stands sipping his coffee, has in his caucus is evidenced by the presence this evening of his colleagues, there is a lot of discontent in the backbenches and the whole of the Liberal party.

In conclusion, starting tomorrow I will look forward to standing here again and debating a non-confidence motion specifically aimed at where the members of this House of Commons stand. Either they stand for Canada or they stand against Canada. That is the issue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCutcheon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I trust I am not pre-empting the time of anyone who wishes to take part in this debate. I assume that the last speaker was the last person to speak. If that is correct, on behalf of my colleagues— Does the hon. member—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I was going to take two or three minutes, if my hon. friend does not take them from me.

Mr. McCutcheon: While I have the floor, on behalf of my colleagues, may I thank the Speaker and his office for providing the opportunity for this debate which may have historical significance. We would like to thank the Speaker's staff, the officers at the table, and all those—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Chair hesitates to accept the remarks of the hon. member in the sense that it is placing the Chair in the centre of an important debate. Hon. members are aware of the stature and position of the Chair which has the sole responsibility of applying and interpreting the rules of the House to the best of its knowledge. The Chair hopes the hon. member will not in any way imply that any decision of the Chair might be related to the debate before us.