

S.O. 21

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

Some Hon. Members: Let him continue.

Mr. Speaker: He may continue with unanimous consent.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

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CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION ADVERTISEMENT PROTESTING PROVISIONS OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, during the last few days a group calling itself the National Citizens' Coalition have been advertising against Bill C-169, the amendments to the Canada Elections Act, which passed both Houses of Parliament last Fall with unanimous support.

One of the provisions of the Bill forbids political advertising during election campaigns except by legitimate candidates or parties. This was done to ensure that all parties and candidates could adhere to the election expenses laws without fear that some ad hoc pressure group could be set up to thwart the rules and that no fringe group could frivolously interfere with the fair democratic election system that was set up with the agreement of all parties in Parliament—in other words, so that power not follow or respond to money or those who have money.

The prohibition applies only to the 50-day election period that comes only once every four or five years. Advertisements at other times are perfectly legal and probably more effective.

It is regrettable that this group has won editorial support from some respected national news agencies like Southam and Thompson Newspapers which, of course, would be the prime financial beneficiaries of this advertising.

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THE SENATE

APPOINTMENT OF IAN SINCLAIR AS SENATOR

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of the House the matter of Ian Sinclair's appointment to the Senate. It is highly commendable of the Government to reward at least one Canadian for the sacrifices we have all made under the six and five restraint program.

● (1410)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has concern about reflections on individual members of the other place—

Mr. Nielsen: Or this one.

Mr. Speaker:—bearing in mind the general problem which the Hon. Member raises, but traditional courtesies have applied in such a situation. The Hon. Member for Lévis.

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[Translation]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

FEDERAL ELECTIONS—LIBERTY OF EXPRESSION

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on some insidious and untrue advertising by the National Citizens' Coalition of Toronto which appeared recently.

This group alleges that all Members of this House have banded together to prevent Canadians from expressing their views during a federal election.

Nothing is further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. For a number of years we have been adopting a series of measures encouraging Canadians to take part in our democratic process and enabling all Canadians who so desire not only to be a candidate but also to have a fair chance of being elected. Under the legislation, all candidates have access to the same financial resources and the same Government assistance.

As for our fellow citizens, they are free to become a member of the Party of their choice and to work for that Party. They are even entitled to a tax credit for contributions made to candidates and parties. Furthermore, individuals and groups are free to spend as much as they like on encouraging debate on a given subject or promoting ideas they support. However, all this is not enough for the Citizens' Coalition which likes to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on partisan, insidious and even vicious politicking against certain candidates.

The Citizens' Coalition does not believe in equal opportunities for all but seems to think that money is synonymous with freedom. Freedom for whom, Mr. Speaker?

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[English]

FINANCE

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE TO STUDY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, the creation of new regulations and statutes to govern financial intermediaries, the trust companies, the insurance companies, the credit unions, the security dealers and the banks, is not a matter of partisan politics. It is a matter that vitally concerns all Members of Parliament.

The Minister of State (Finance) (Mr. MacLaren) has decided to appoint a Task Force Committee that does not include any Members of Parliament. The Minister presumably believes that the bankers, insurance executives, the bureau-