

S. O. 21

This morning we have heard a debate on a very serious issue which was raised yesterday and was sprinkled with some very serious allegations and innuendo. Those allegations have not been supported. The allegations are implied, either directly or indirectly. They are not founded and have not been substantiated by the member.

I am of the firm opinion that the Hon. Member who made these allegations, either directly or indirectly, either inside the House or outside the House, has a clear opportunity now, in the spirit of improving the climate in this institution, to withdraw and apologize, or to welcome and support the initiative contained in the motion which the Hon. Minister is prepared to move, or to take the other honourable course, if he feels very strongly that his allegations are well founded and substantiated, of putting up his seat and taking the necessary course of action.

I think we all want to resolve this issue in the best, fairest and most practical way possible. I think this is a good time to call upon all Hon. Members to consider the importance of this institution itself. This is a good time to exercise a little tolerance and understanding.

I have sat on the opposition side as well as the government side. I was a member of an opposition Party which had 70 members when the Government had a huge majority. Notwithstanding that, we were fairly effective in making our points of view known. We always had the kind of torrid debate which clearly exemplifies the traditions of this House. However, there has always been a clear understanding that innuendo, unfounded allegations, and the hurling of suspicions is something which we try to avoid as much as possible. I think that that sort of activity in the House has been on the increase. Anything we can do with your leadership, Mr. Speaker, to attempt to ameliorate that will be in the best interests of this institution and all Hon. Members.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister. It being one o'clock p.m., I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[*Translation*]

THE ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): For a week now, Mr. speaker, the Conservative Ministers have

been trying to make people forget the regrettable two and a half years that have gone by since this Government came into office on September 4.

We saw the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) attempt to convince western Canadians to set up a committee to come up with a new energy policy. Mr. Speaker, after the calamity, after this incompetent Government drove the western provinces into bankruptcy, all of a sudden this Minister wakes up two and a half years later and strikes a committee to repair the damage.

Yesterday we also saw the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Côté) step up to the podium; having failed miserably with his regional development policies, he discovers his own shortcomings and incompetence, so he too decides to convene the provinces in the hope that they will help him draft new policies.

Mr. Speaker, like the people of Quebec and the rest of Canada, especially western Canadians, I am telling these Ministers and this Government: It is too late. People want an election, they want to get rid of this incompetent Government.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FEARS OF ABITIBI-PRICE COMPANY

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, a few months ago I rose in this House to echo the concern of Abitibi-Price Company officials about the possibility of a new paper mill being opened in Matane thanks to Government grants.

Mr. Speaker, without any grants the management of Abitibi-Price have taken the initiative of investing \$150 million in their Kénogami plant to produce a fine supercalendered paper quite similar to the product which would be marketed by Matane.

Mr. Speaker, if the Quebec Government is so intent on having one more competitor in the pulp and paper industry, it seems to me the Minister responsible, Mr. Caccia, should at least meet with Abitibi-Price senior officials, union spokesmen, and the very concerned 1,200 workers.

With supporting figures and strong guarantees, he should assure them that the Abitibi-Price operations will not be threatened in any way and that our workers will not be laid off.

For the time being, Mr. Speaker, I am still very worried about the impact of this project, and I urge my Government to be very careful in this case.