

Government Orders

tle and destroy it". They do not want to allow debate on this critical issue, and we say that is absolutely unacceptable.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, at a time when we are into a national emergency, with oil prices increasing at the pumps so that it is causing pain to every single Canadian, when it is going to result in an increase in the cost of goods that Canadians buy in every part of the country, when it is driving companies, farmers and fishermen into bankruptcy, who is behind all of this nonsense? Who is it that is really responsible? I suggest that it is not the hon. member, who is the government House leader, from Calgary. I suggest that it is the Prime Minister of Canada because not only is he wishing to destroy and dismantle Petro-Canada, he is in the process of destroying the Parliament of Canada. and we find that unacceptable.

• (1140)

I pose some questions. Could it be that the government House leader has been instructed by the Prime Minister to do what he can to destroy Parliament?

An hon. member: Ram legislation through.

Mr. Riis: Who is it that comes in daily, striding into the House to challenge the Speaker, to challenge decisions that the House has taken? Who is it that is continuously making spurious allegations against members of the House and casting aspersions on the table officers, as well as the Speaker in the chair from time to time? It is the hon. member who is the government representative in the House.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that those kinds of actions by the government House leader are causing this House to be a House of ill repute. The people of Canada are disgusted with the kind of antics that they are seeing on behalf of government members time and time again as they challenge the chair, and so on.

Who is it, Mr. Speaker, that on occasion has threatened the Speaker? I remember when the government House leader stormed the Chair. He stood in front of you, Mr. Speaker, and flexed his muscles and put his fist into the face of the Speaker because he did not like a ruling of the Speaker. This is the first time we have seen any of that despicable, disgusting behaviour in the House of Commons. Who was it that really did that, Mr. Speaker?

An hon. member: Harvie?

Mr. Riis: Who is it that continues to behave this way? Is it really the government House leader or is it the Prime Minister who is running this puppet in the House of Commons from the Prime Minister's Office in the Langevin Block?

There is something extremely sinister going on in this House.

An hon. member: Right on.

Mr. Riis: While we assume that it is the government House leader who from time to time challenges the Speaker's rulings, that bad mouths the good office of the Speaker and his advisers, is this the person who is really doing this?

An hon. member: No.

Mr. Riis: Or is it the quiet voice of the Prime Minister from the Langevin Block, from the Prime Minister's Office?

Is my hon. friend, the Minister of Science over here who shakes his head, saying that the Prime Minister does not support the despicable behaviour?

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the parliamentary House Leader for the New Democratic Party, but I think he is skating perilously close to open water. I would therefore ask him to be very careful and stick to the subject matter of the motion.

[*English*]

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I am attempting to do, in trying to explain to the people of Canada what is going on. But this motion is just one of an ongoing series where this government—and to be more specific, this Prime Minister—is attempting to run the Government of Canada not through the House of Commons, but through the Langevin Block, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Prime Minister is using his puppet in the House of Commons, called the government House leader, to carry out his dirty work. We are simply saying we have identified this plot and we do not plan to sit quietly by and be muzzled by it, not able to speak out to the people of Canada on this issue.

An hon. member: They're muzzled. They have been told to shut up.