

Message from the Senate

have not followed proper procedure, you have not followed the processes of Parliament”?

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, those in the other place do not have that right under any statute of which I am aware, including and especially the Constitution of Canada. They are exercising a political judgment which is not given to them to exercise by the Constitution of Canada. I am as shocked as is my colleague from Annapolis Valley—Hants (Mr. Nowlan) that the Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys would endorse that political action by the Senate of Canada.

He sought the vote of the people of Cape Breton. His colleague, the bard of Lake Ainslie, did not. He elected not to seek the vote of the people of Cape Breton to send him to the House of Commons. He opted to accept an appointment to the Senate of Canada. Yet, he still wants to govern and influence policies of this House of Commons from that place. It is time he was exposed.

You have to deal with processes and procedures and with the technicalities, Mr. Speaker, but you should know that behind this is the ill motive of people in the other place who seek to undo the work of this House of Commons. They seek to destroy the initiative of the Government in developing the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and a similar agency for industrial development on the Island of Cape Breton. They are jealous of that initiative and seek to destroy it. They are hiding behind technicalities which you, Mr. Speaker, must reject out of hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys for a final reply.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, in reply to my friend from Halifax West, the Senate is not seeking to destroy anything. The Senate is taking the provisions of this Bill which relate to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and putting them in a Bill which relates to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and does not include other subjects. It is putting in a separate Bill the subjects which were inappropriately and wrongfully included in this Bill, those subjects relating to the Cape Breton Development Corporation.

We have seen in the portion of the Bill that has been returned to the House that the sections relating to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency have not been changed, amended, or in any way misconstrued. How can that possibly be construed as changing the Bill? It has merely put it in the form in which it should have been originally.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether, through you, I could pose a question to my friend from Cape Breton—The Sydneys who says that there has been no change, that they have just divided the Bill. The Member fully appreciates the state of this House and fully knows what happens to Bills when Houses are dissolved.

We have been thrown back from the Senate and Lake Ainslie a Bill which has split the two functions of one Bill

which we have democratically passed. That will cause delay in getting the Bill concluded, passed, and proclaimed in order that we will have a legislative framework to do what the bureaucrats are doing now and which is being put in greater jeopardy the longer it remains without a legislative framework. If we move on one part of the Bill and leave the other half alone and this House dissolves, does the Hon. Member not believe that could result in a fundamental legislation change?

● (1030)

If the Bill is divided to deal separately with Cape Breton Corporation and ACOA, and the House dissolves, the legislation will be fundamentally dead. My friend is trying to pretend that that is not a fundamental change to a Bill that was passed by a majority of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily, the Chair probably would not extend this discussion any longer, even though a very experienced and much respected Member has asked to put a question to another Member through the Chair. However, this is a unique and very interesting point. I will exercise my discretion and hear the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys, but very briefly.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your latitude in this matter. The Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants has asked a very important question. The answer is straightforward.

The Government presented a Bill to set up and structure the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. The Senate studied this Bill and considered the intent of the Government to set up this agency. It took that portion of the Bill relating to the agency, dealt with it very quickly and returned it for consideration of this House as fast as I think could possibly be expected.

The Government wants to set up the agency. Presumably, it wants to help regional development in Atlantic Canada. It now has the portion of the Bill that will accomplish that. Nothing has been taken from the Bill that would frustrate the Government's wishes in that regard.

I think the Senate has acted responsibly. We will adjourn shortly for the summer and the Senate has given us that portion for passage. I think it has acted very responsibly.

Mr. Gerald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I served on the committee that travelled throughout the East Coast of Canada. We went to St. John's, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, Halifax, Summerside and New Brunswick. Throughout all the meetings, one Liberal showed up in St. John's, Newfoundland, to hear from people of St. John's. We went to Cape Breton. One Liberal—

Mr. MacLellan: A point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for South West Nova may be relating events exactly as they occurred, but I think I am