

how the Ministry of Finance could conceivably come up with this computation, on the mortgage suggested, of \$2,538.23, or is this another illustration of deliberate misrepresentation by a government that refuses to put up any speakers in debate so the Government can not in any way be questioned as to the nature and terms of a Bill?

● (1550)

Mr. Nickerson: Mr. Speaker, I must say I fully subscribe to the observations made by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). I do not know how that computation was made. No one really knows how it was made because there are no regulations which give the complex formulae to be incorporated in the Bill. It is impossible for anybody really to know at the time of public debate in the House of Commons on this Bill how it will affect him or her and what penalties will be assessed upon the early discharge of a mortgage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Debate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Debate? Questions? The Hon. Member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Tousignant), for questions or comments.

Mr. Tousignant: Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment briefly on what was said by the Hon. Member opposite. Quite frankly, I must admit I was amazed at the contradictions in his comments, and at the way he contradicted the policies of his own party. When the Hon. Member said that:

[*English*]

“We should have control over our own affairs”.

[*Translation*]

Every time this Government has wanted to take control of its own affairs, those people over there were shocked, they shouted and they let the bells ring! I am surprised at such statements. When the Hon. Member says that the Government wasted its time on constitutional matters and on language issues . . . Mr. Speaker, I am speechless! Are these people going to tell Canadians in an election campaign that what was done for this country, the very essence of being Canadian . . . are these people going to say this kind of thing publicly in their election campaign? I am absolutely dumbfounded! While the Government approached these issues responsibly and bravely, they could and would never have done so! And at the same time, the Government conducted the affairs of State. Yes, we did have an economic slowdown, as did all other countries. If the Progressive Conservatives had been in power, Mr. Speaker, it would have been a disaster! People with no experience, who would have lost control completely! And now they are telling us that we ignored the economic issues.

When I hear the Hon. Member opposite saying that—

[*English*]

“The interest of the Government is more with the financial institutions”.

Interest Act

[*Translation*]

Imagine hearing such words from a Member on the opposite side of the House! How can we believe statements that contradict the very policies of his Party, a Party that is dedicated to the interests of the big financial institutions? And now they are saying that the Government is in bed with big business!

Mr. Speaker, if that is how he looks at things, perhaps the Hon. Member opposite should cross the floor and sit on this side of the House, because he is certainly not going to feel comfortable with Members of his own Party. Mr. Speaker, these people are speaking out of both sides of their mouths at once, and just to kill time, too! Other Members were saying that nobody was speaking on this side of the House. We do not have to be convinced, we already are. And we do not have to make all kinds of false accusations, like the Members opposite are doing.

Mr. Speaker, we know this Bill is a good Bill. We know that Canadians are anxious to see it pass, and we do not really have to try to convince our friends opposite.

[*English*]

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Témiscamingue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Témiscamingue was recognized for a question or a comment. The Hon. Member for the Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson), to whom the comment was addressed, is not in the House now. In any event, the Hon. Member may make a general statement pertaining to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Western Arctic even though the latter is not here. There is only one minute left in the period allowed for questions.

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, I was of the opinion that the Hon. Member had risen to speak in debate, and we were quite pleased to see him rise in debate. It is about time that this House of Commons had a Member of Parliament from the other side speak in debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Tousignant: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member does not respect the House. I was commenting on the speech. The Hon. Member also can comment on that speech. He does not have to stand up and make another speech or ask questions of me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I will help resolve that matter. The time allotted for questions has expired. We will now proceed with debate. The Hon. Member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling).

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, the Interest Act has been around for a long while. It was passed in its original form in 1880 and portions of it were around prior to Confederation, I am told, as early as 1840.

The part of the Bill which has attracted a lot of interest is Section 10. The Bill purports to amend Section 10 and make