

*Privilege—Mr. Valcourt*

• (1530)

This morning, the House heard an eloquent speech by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) on a question of privilege—to which I intend to speak today—an eloquent defence of the principles of parliamentary democracy. This is the same gentleman who a few months ago asked non-elected senators to obstruct the will of Parliament.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Valcourt:** Therefore, Mr. Speaker, when you consider the question,—

**An Hon. Member:** The Senate—

**Mr. Valcourt:** —the Senate, who are not elected. Of course, the Liberal Party's concept of democracy does not go beyond the petty interests of the Liberal Party and ignores the interests of the people of this country! And there is a big difference, believe me, between the interests of Canadians and the interests of the Leader of the Liberal Party and his followers.

The issue before the Chair is whether the privilege of Members of this House has been breached. I believe that this morning, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis), clearly explained before the House what circumstances caused the Government and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), the best one we ever had in this country,—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Valcourt:** —to reveal the contents of his Budget earlier than anticipated, and to do so before the Canadian public.

**An Hon. Member:** Participatory democracy!

**Mr. Valcourt:** The Liberal Members who spoke earlier and my hon. friends in the New Democratic Party are upset by what happened and about this terrible breach of British parliamentary tradition, namely that the Budget was not brought down before this House. I admit that to me it is also a matter of some concern because usually, according to parliamentary custom, the Budget is brought down within the precincts of this House before the elected representatives of all Canadians and, through television, before Canadians across this country.

Yesterday, however, the public interest was threatened by a person who may have committed a criminal offence. That person did not attack the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Justice. That person attacked our country by violating one of its fundamental laws. That person violated a section of the Criminal Code by stealing a document. It is all quite straightforward, Mr. Speaker. Did you hear the Leader of the Opposition this morning? And his new principles? It seems that since the

election on November 21, the Liberal Party has acquired some new principles. They have a new principle of physics which says that everything that goes out can come in. This morning, we were given a new principle of criminal law, which says it is all right to steal if the door isn't locked. This, from the Leader of the Opposition. That is what he told us this morning.

However, Mr. Speaker, when you examine the question before the Chair, I think that in addition to protecting the interests of our Parliamentary system and our Parliamentary tradition, you must also consider the people of this country who witnessed the petty politicking of power-hungry Liberals and white-collar socialists, who are interested in only one thing and certainly not in the interests of Canadians. The socialists keep complaining that the rich are not taxed enough. Look at last night's Budget. Look at the minimum tax on corporations, the tax on the wealthy, on people earning over \$50,000, all of which the socialists have been demanding for a long time. There is good news in the Budget for this country.

They do not want to talk about it. They would rather try to cloud the issue by calling for the resignation of the Minister of Finance who has the reputation for being the most credible and most honest in Canadian history. I speak of my colleague, the Minister of Finance.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Valcourt:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance said so this morning, as did the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis) and the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski): there are two basic principles, I believe, that underlie the issue of budget secrecy. Of course, people are not to profit while others cannot, and also the principle that the Government's financial, economic and fiscal policies should be laid out in the House of Commons. Now, what happened last night?

This morning, I heard Opposition Members accuse us of saying that what happened yesterday was the Opposition's fault. No one on this side of the House ever said that! The Minister of Finance never blamed the Opposition for this crime—neither the Liberal Opposition nor our friends the social democrats. No way! But what we are complaining about is that, you see, those people are talking out of both sides of their mouths. On one hand, they complain that Parliament did not receive the Budget, but on the other, when we wanted to call Parliament, with their consent, to present the Budget, they were opposed. Where I come from in Madawaska, we call that talking out of both sides of the mouth. There is a cruder expression for it in English, but that is what they are doing. Today, they think that they will impress