

Government Orders

● (1640)

In fact, the government could have introduced all these measures in one fell swoop, if it had been so inclined. Not so. They are doing this piecemeal to give us the impression they are working very hard. There will be subsequent legislation to implement another 125 cuts in a matter of weeks or months. Just to give the impression that, my goodness, this government is really working, although the fact is they are not doing much to reduce patronage. Instead, they are doing everything they can to get money out of the pockets of the needy, those who have no resources at all, like the people in substandard housing and the unemployed. These people are being hit, but careful how you treat the friends of the party. Once again, I want to make it clear to the hon. member that as far as the other place is concerned, we do not want to change it. We just want to get rid of it.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to what the hon. member was saying, and I must say that the hon. member has a very short memory. As a professed separatist although he is a Franco-Ontarian, he probably remembers Denis de Belleval who was a well-known PQ minister but nevertheless accepted the offer of an order in council appointment from his good friend Brian—we all know who that is—to the board of directors of VIA Rail. I wonder whether the hon. member remembers those appointments.

Perhaps he also remembers, and I am sure the name will ring a bell, a woman in North Bay who had been appointed to the board of directors of CN Rail. When her appointment was announced, the *North Bay Nugget* interviewed her and asked:

[English]

“Madam, why do you think you were chosen as a member of the board of CN Rail?” She answered: “I come from North Bay, a railroad town, and my grandfather was a well known railroader in the maritimes”. The individual’s name was Marie Marchand of North Bay.

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, as far as Mr. de Belleval is concerned, I cannot speak for him, since this was one of the appointments that were made under Mr. Mulroney’s Conservative government.

It all goes to show that following the example of the Conservatives is not necessarily the best way for the Liberals to improve things in this country, and in fact, if we look at what the government is doing now, the Prime Minister is about to go further than the former Conservative Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney, ever did. That is the problem. Meanwhile, they are making all these cosmetic changes but people are not easily fooled. They realize that the Liberal government is doing exactly what the Conservative Party used to do.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 38 to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Fraser Valley West—the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Mr. John Godfrey (Don Valley West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to address the matter of the second reading of an omnibus bill concerning the elimination and streamlining of federal agencies.

In July of last year the Minister for Public Service Renewal announced the decision to eliminate 21 agencies, boards and advisory bodies and 275 governor in council and ministerial appointments.

The bill before members today is part of that initiative to eliminate and streamline 15 agencies and 150 governor in council appointments.

The July announcement represents a partnership initiative among federal ministers involving the ministers of finance, fisheries and oceans, government services, health, industry, national defence, national revenue and public works.

As we headed into the last election the Liberal Party of Canada recognized that one simple question stood out in the minds of Canadians: What kind of a country do we want for ourselves and for our children?

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Among the qualities we identified, we recognize that we want a country whose governments are efficient, innovative and co-operative, not only with each other but with other sectors as well.

The red book states that as a government we have premised our agenda on an integrated and coherent approach to economic, social, environmental and foreign policy. As a government we want to explore innovative and creative solutions to old problems, looking at them from a new perspective. And as a government we know that it is necessary to tend to one’s own housekeeping.

We have therefore chosen a plan of action that will help us streamline government activities, make government less cumbersome and therefore develop better government and to adapt the structure of government to provide improved services to the public. To do this, we have to determine whether specific government programs, agencies, boards and advisory bodies actually deliver results over time.

The omnibus bill which is before the House for second reading today is an important and progressive part of that process. Our aim is to establish better, more efficient and more effective government. The passage of this bill will bring us closer to that goal.

Today’s climate is one of change. Canada as a nation, the federal department, the agencies and crown corporations for the