

*Private Members' Business*

problems like the Thalidomide problem of a few years ago.

[*Translation*]

Customs officers are supposed to protect the economy of the country. Together with the police, they are also supposed to prevent drugs from being smuggled into Canada. There are any number of criminals who would like to smuggle all kinds of things into the country like arms, rifles, machine guns and especially drugs. We need protection against these people, against these criminals. Public servants are supposed to protect us, so cannot afford to come down on these people. We cannot treat them like machines. We cannot walk all over them just because the economy is in bad shape.

When the economy is in bad shape and the rate of inflation is 6.4 per cent and they get a 0 per cent increase, that is intolerable.

The government is responsible for interest rates. When interest rates are excessively high, the provinces, the country, municipalities, school boards, and so forth, are all forced to borrow at high rates. The provinces, school boards and municipalities then have to raise their taxes to be able to pay these interest rates. About one-third of all taxes raised by municipalities, provinces, and the federal government is used to pay the interest charges on the debt.

Public servants are supposed to serve the community. These are people who work very hard and who do a good job. I know what I am talking about. I have more than 20,000 public servants in my riding, and I have met several. They have a sense of duty, and they are very much aware of the spirit and culture of this country. They want to preserve and promote all the good things in this country. I know they are hard workers. I know they are honest people. I know they are people who co-operate with their employer, with governments. I know them as dedicated people. That is the only way I know them. I don't know them the way this government knows them, and in my opinion, the government has destroyed its relationship with its employees.

[*English*]

Yesterday, the Public Service Alliance of Canada was in court with the Treasury Board. They received a decision from the Public Service Staff Relations Board that said: "The obligation provided under the Public Service Staff Relations Act to bargain in good faith and make every reasonable effort to conclude a collective

agreement is not substantively different for this employer than it is for any other employer in any jurisdiction in Canada. Accordingly the board declares that the employer", meaning the Government of Canada, "has acted contrary to section 51 of the act", its own law, "and orders the employer to comply with section 51 of the act". This is an odd way to operate. Can you imagine the government being the judge and the player all at once?

• (1700)

**An hon. member:** Judge, jury and executioner.

**Mr. Bellemare:** It is the judge, the jury and the executioner.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, I want to ask the government to be fair and equitable in the way it treats Canadians across this country.

[*English*]

—that the government not pit one group against the other and that the government be fair and equitable in its dealings especially with its own employees.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** It being 5 p. m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(6), the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[*English*]

### THE ENVIRONMENT

#### USE OF RESOURCES

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should require each government department and agency to include in their budget submissions an accounting of the use of resources whose use or disposal has an impact on the environment and annual targets for reduction and to report any associated cost savings.

She said: Mr. Speaker, I want to begin speaking on this motion by quoting from Gro Harlem Brundtland, the chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the landmark report that gave us the concept of sustainable development. To put it in every simple terms, it says that we do not have a paper industry if we do not have any trees left. Our economy depends