

Motion Respecting House Vote

of the party at that time, then the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency, issued a publication entitled "Dans Le Même Sac". I believe that is the situation today; they are in the same bag. No doubt the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson), who I understand will be speaking very shortly, is in the same bag as well.

Ever since the government's defeat last Monday night the Prime Minister and his followers have been whining and whimpering on national television in this country. They have been whimpering about the undesirability of an election at a time when the economy of Canada is in serious trouble. They have been trying to leave the impression that the opposition was irresponsible in acting as they did in the house on Monday night. Does he remember his own conduct in 1962 and 1963? I shall have some quotations for him in that regard in a few moments, because I intend to quote him as a constitutional expert.

I wonder whether hon. members opposite recall the publication, just a little over four years ago, of the "Diefenbucks"? I wonder whether they recall travelling from one end of the country to the other trying to undermine the economy with one purpose in mind, to clutch at power? Does the Prime Minister remember those occasions? Do the members of his party recall hearing those things? What kind of deceit is this he is endeavouring to impose on the country now? These are not my words, they are the words of the Prime Minister, as I will show in a moment.

The truth is that the financial crisis about which they are complaining now is their own doing. It has nothing to do with the opposition. It was as gradual as it was inevitable under the policies of the present government. It resulted from, to paraphrase words of the Prime Minister in 1962, continued deficits, inadequate economic growth, some bad budgetary proposals and the destructive effect of high interest rates, high cost of living, high taxes, inadequate housing, high unemployment and, by no means lastly, the unprecedented bungling and ineptitude of the government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nielsen: I am glad to hear hon. members opposite applaud, especially the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette). I am happy to see him in his seat, in which place he was not last Monday.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the hon. member for Yukon during the whole year 1966.

Mr. Nielsen: If the hon. member were here more often he would see me.

The Prime Minister speaks of trickery. The opposition used some kind of dirty trick in defeating the government on a major, indeed, vital piece of tax legislation we say. Again I should like to quote words the Prime Minister used in 1962:

Could anything be more fantastic, but fantastic or not you will be hearing this farcical explanation soon and often in the House of Commons in accents of quivering indignation.

This is the Prime Minister speaking, Mr. Speaker. Was is an opposition trick, I ask you, that kept 48 members on the government side away last Monday? Was it an opposition trick that the vote was called at all on Monday night? Was it an opposition trick that they were defeated on not one but two occasions on Monday night? Was it an opposition trick that brought the country to the point where the government decided to impose additional taxes on those least able to bear them? Was it an opposition trick that this tax measure was introduced in this chamber last November? Was it an opposition trick to lure the Prime Minister to Jamaica while this vote was being taken? Was it an opposition trick to induce the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Turner), the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) away from the house last Monday when this vote was taken? They were out on the hustings. They were galavanting around the country on a leadership campaign instead of attending to the business of the house.

Mr. Greene: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Yukon is very used to distorting facts. I must state—

Mr. Starr: You mean you were here?

Mr. Greene: —that I was not out west on leadership business. I was in Manitoba at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Dairy Association. Contrary to what the hon. member for Bow River said, I was very well used and graciously received. In fact, I was made an honorary citizen of the city of Winnipeg by his worship the mayor.

Mr. Nielsen: As usual, the Minister of Agriculture has not risen on a question of privilege at all.