

Bank of Canada Report

Mr. Speaker, you will remember the story from the public school reader of years ago about the boy who cried wolf, wolf, wolf so often that the people ceased to pay any attention to him. I think the hon. member for Essex East has long since passed that position. As a matter of fact, as a demonstration of synthetic indignation, as an attempt to whip up an issue where he well knows there is no justification for an issue or for the attacks he has made, one can say his performance tonight was of the ersatz variety.

It is interesting also that the hon. member for Essex East, apart from being the opposition critic on numerous matters such as health and welfare and—

Mr. Brunsdon: Agriculture.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):—and agriculture, has now evidently taken the position of opposition critic on monetary policy.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I recognize the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill).

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. gentleman is raising a new grievance. There are other members who wish to speak on the grievance raised by the hon. member for Essex East, but apparently the grievance of the hon. gentleman, who is speaking now, has regard to the conduct of the hon. member for Essex East, and while many of us would find that subject very entertaining to speak on—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pickersgill:—I suggest that the ordinary rules of the house should apply to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) as they are applied to other hon. members of the house, and that the minister should either speak on the grievance raised by the hon. member for Essex East or give the floor to someone who may wish to do so.

Mr. Speaker: A certain number of personal references are a part of debate, but if they are prolonged they would, of course, amount to another grievance.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, so far as the point of order is concerned, obviously it is ersatz too. I might say, concerning the point raised by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, that he knew very well when I started to speak I was left only nine minutes by the previous speakers and

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

he is obviously now trying to use up some of those nine minutes by raising this point of order.

Mr. Pearson: Why do you not refer to the subject?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, there was a time when—

Mr. Pearson: Why do you not refrain from discussing personalities?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There was a time when the expression "procrastination is the thief of time" meant something, but that, of course, was before the days of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate.

Mr. Pearson: You have four minutes left, why do you not use them?

Mr. Pickersgill: Why do you not refer to the Bank of Canada report?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, the annual report of the governor of the Bank of Canada was referred to the standing committee on banking commerce once, and that was in the year 1956. There was a very good reason at that time why that report was so referred. There had been a great deal of discussion on the subject of monetary policy—

Mr. Pickersgill: There has been none, of course, this year.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):—which apparently influenced the minister of finance of that time after some discussion of a general nature that preceded the introduction, not at the time of introducing the motion—to bring in a motion, on his own account, to have that report referred to the standing committee on banking and commerce for study and report.

Mr. Benidickson: Yes, because the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) asked for it.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, there had been some discussion some time before, and the minister of finance at that time was very unhappy about what had been said to him apparently, and he brought in a motion to have that report referred to that particular committee. That is the one occasion on which this was done.

Mr. Pearson: It was done the year before.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That was the one occasion when the report of the governor of the Bank of Canada was referred to a parliamentary committee.

Mr. Pearson: It was apparently done the year before.