

Government Orders

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Edmonton Southeast.

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, there is a rule of relevance in this Chamber and I would ask you to enforce it on this member.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I call on members on both sides of the House to co-operate. I would ask the hon. member to continue his statement.

[*English*]

Mr. Thompson: Thank you again for your generosity. I will continue.

Let us talk about agriculture and some of the support payments to farmers the other side is so famous for criticizing us about. The Liberals voted against Bill C-75, which put \$500 million into the hands of Canadian farmers. They did the same thing on Bill C-90, a \$52 million package. They did the same thing on Bill C-24 when we committed \$428 million to Canadian agriculture. They did it again on Bill C-100 when we committed \$40 million to Canadian agriculture.

In terms of economic and regional expansion—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. I think the debate is on the amendments at the report stage.

Mr. Thompson: They have a tendency to move off the bill in question. I think I have to clear the record and clear it I will.

In terms of economic and regional expansion, they voted against Bill C-91, a change in the patent law to encourage more research in this country. They did the same thing in regard to the privatization acts.

It was the same with the NDP members. All they want to do is criticize. If we get back to the bill we are debating, the Canada Student Loans Act, they are again criticizing from a position I cannot understand. We are attempting to eliminate the 3 per cent surcharge on student loans. But they get up on their hind legs and completely distort what we are trying to do.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): A point of order, the hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into the business of people not knowing the content of the bill they are debating and accusing other members of not

understanding what is being debated, but I would like to point out there is nothing in this bill about removing the 3 per cent surcharge.

I would advise the hon. member if he is going to allege that other people are debating something that is not in the bill, he should not do the same thing.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): As you know, no rule is harder for the Chair to apply than the rule of relevance. Since this is a money bill, the Chair is being somewhat indulgent, but I would ask the hon. member not to abuse it.

[*English*]

Mr. Thompson: It is quite difficult to stand in this place and have a clear debate when one is constantly being interrupted.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member.

Mr. McCurdy: This is report stage and we are debating specific amendments which have been grouped. The subject matter of every one of them changes the student loan, not every issue that this or any other speaker wants to bring into debate.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): When the hon. member interrupted the hon. member for Carleton—Charlotte, the subject was student loans, if I am not mistaken. I again give the floor to the hon. member.

[*English*]

Mr. Thompson: If the member had been here this morning and paid attention to what was happening he would realize we are on closure debate, a two hour debate.

An hon. member: Time allocation.

Mr. Thompson: Time allocation is what it is called. He has been around this House longer than I have and should know that.

We are talking about proposals that were brought into this House in December with the finance minister's economic statement. When we are into debate with regard to the specific parts of that economic statement the field is wide open. We are really talking about the 1992 budget. We want to get on the record and put the record clearly on the line. I think we should be allowed to do that without constant interruption.