

Supply—Northern Affairs

When my friend the hon. member for Welland began speaking about the northern vision and then told us about this bar at Arizona Charlie's, I wondered whether that particular project was part of the northern vision conceived before or after the conceiver had been at the bar, because it does seem to me to be the kind of vision that only comes at that sort of time.

This whole question of the restoration of Arizona Charlie's—and I imagine Charlie was white; he might not have been, but I imagine he was—raises a very difficult problem for the Prime Minister which the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources will at once recognize. We, sir, in this parliament enacted a bill of rights, and surely we are not going to have discrimination against Nigger Jim. If we are going to spend a quarter of a million dollars restoring the palais de danse of Arizona Charlie we will have to spend an equal amount on Nigger Jim's just to show that we really believe in the principles of the bill of rights. I am not advocating that. I am just pointing out that that would be consistent with those lofty principles which were embodied by the Prime Minister in the bill of rights and commended to us and accepted by this house.

But I am wondering whether the conception came from another quarter, and I really think it is something we ought to inquire into when we have members of the government on the treasury benches spending the public money—I was almost tempted to say drunkenly, sir, but that would be out of order; nevertheless you can understand why I was tempted to say it—on a project of this kind as a so-called historic monument, a shrine. I just wondered whether perhaps the real conception was not in the fertile mind, the almost too fertile mind, of the rather under-employed Associate Minister of National Defence; because we remember the profession of political faith made by the associate minister in February of last year, just over a year ago. That was before he was promoting steel plants. At that time he was—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, sir, this is very relevant, as you will see in just a moment. The associate minister said:

"In my riding, I organize dances, fashion shows, and so on. Under the Roman empire, you know how the caesars ruled over their subjects, with bread and games. When no bread was available then games were organized.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. gentleman identify what he is quoting from?

Mr. Pickersgill:

"You know that the federal government is unable to grant all kinds of favors."

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. member what he is quoting from?

Mr. Pickersgill:

"If there is no bread, then there will be games."

Apparently it is not just going to be games; it is going to be fun and games.

Mr. Pigeon: Horses on the payroll.

Mr. Pickersgill: One quarter of a million dollars will be spent in what is now a small and historic village, a shrine, a "palais de danse", Arizona Charlie's place. That is what this government can do, but it cannot find jobs for more than half a million unemployed. It seems to me that with the kind of deficits we have, with the kind of situation the Minister of Finance is faced with, there are better ways to spend a quarter of a million dollars than on recreating a place which, according to what little information I have about it—and I must confess that I do not have the same taste in literature as my friend the hon. member for Welland, and I take his word for it—was a place where the poor fellows who went out in the creeks and found the gold were shaken down. If that is something that is worth another quarter of a million shaken out of the pockets of the Canadian taxpayers in order to perpetuate the memory, I think it is time we were finished with this government and with the northern vision which seems to have been distorted at Arizona Charlie's bar.

(Translation):

Mr. Fortin: Fifteen minutes of nonsense.

(Text):

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, I have heard three dissertations on the subject of grand Charlie's palace, "le palais de danse", as the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate referred to it, and I think it is just about time that these hon. gentlemen were brought out of orbit down to face reality again. As I listened to the extravagant language used, particularly by the last speaker, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, I concluded that if I did not know him better I would almost suspect that he had been visiting Charlie's palace and had been too close to the bar; because the language was extravagant and beyond any sense of proportion.

Mr. Pickersgill: Not as extravagant as the project.

Mr. Woolliams: Shut up; you had your turn.

Mr. Dinsdale: It is quite true that what is known as the Grand Palace theatre back in the early days might have been associated