

*Senate and House of Commons Act***GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[Translation]

SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed, from Wednesday, November 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-20, an Act to amend the Senate and the House of Commons Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, a special "thank you" to my colleagues for their warm applause.

[English]

Yesterday afternoon we listened to a speech by the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boudria: It was not a very good speech as you will recall. Let me repeat to you what he said. He said:

In all of these initiatives we faced some tough choices, especially with respect to expenditure reduction.

The Hon. Member was telling us how the Government had these tough decisions to make on reducing expenditures. Perhaps the Hon. Member could explain, was he referring to expenditures of the Prime Minister's Office? Was he referring to the fact that staffing in the Prime Minister's Office increased by 50 per cent since the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) took over? Or was he referring to the fact that the Prime Minister now requires not one, not two, not three, but five cars in order to travel up and down Parliament Hill and go for lunch at noon? Is that the expenditure reduction the Hon. Member was referring to?

Perhaps he was talking about the newly established legal aid service for cabinet Ministers. You see, if you are an ordinary Canadian in trouble with the law—and you, Mr. Speaker, who are learned in the law, will know this—you go out and find a lawyer. Unless you have a very, very low income, which most cabinet Ministers do not, you have to pay for legal advice. It is a kind of business transaction between the lawyer and his client. The lawyer says he will charge you so much to represent you, and the client says, all right. That is usually the way it works. At least that is the way I thought it worked. Not so if you are a cabinet Minister. A certain former cabinet Minister ran into a situation whereby there was a \$350,000 legal bill over an alleged conflict of interest.

Mr. Lewis: Is that Kaplan?

Mr. Boudria: This particular cabinet Minister decided he would avail himself of cabinet legal aid. The Government of Canada will now pay, so we are told, \$350,000 of taxpayers' money for his legal bill. Do you know that the savings represented by this Bill at the rate of \$1,000 per Member of

Parliament and Senator is roughly the same as paying the legal bill of the Hon. Member for York—Peel (Mr. Stevens)?

Mr. Fennell: You caused that.

Mr. Boudria: This \$350,000 is allegedly saved to pay for a former cabinet Minister's legal bill. That is what this scheme is all about. It is not a matter of the Government saving money. It has nothing to do with that. It has to do with a certain sense of moral dishonesty on the part of the Government. That is what it is all about.

Albeit unlikely, if you think that I am partisan in making those remarks, which you probably would not, if you think I am not totally objective, let me read to you what some Tories have said in the past about saving money. Once upon a time there was this author. He was not very good. He wrote only one book and the book was called *Where I stand*.

Mr. Gagliano: Where he stood.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, that is very appropriate. That will most likely be the sequel.

At page 44 of the book it says: "How can the Government call on the nation to restrain itself, to be more realistic in its collective demand, when its own record is an unbroken stream of fiscal excesses? Canadians may be many things but stupid we are not. We have a leadership that so blatantly has one code of conduct for itself and quite a different one for the rest of us."

Mr. Rodriguez: Author!

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I was not going to reveal the author but I am being provoked by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez). The book was written by one Martin Brian Mulroney.

Mr. Rodriguez: No!

Mr. Boudria: Yes, indeed. He wrote this book which I have right here in my hands. Now we know why the Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou (Mr. Gagliano) said the book should be retitled "Where I stood".

We have a Government which uses two jets, one to carry the Prime Minister and the other to carry his ego, or his cameras, or even his limousine, upon occasion, so that he can have the pleasure of travelling down the streets of New York or wherever with a licence plate on his car that says CAN 001 instead of some other number. That is what it is all about. It is the fiscal excesses of this Government, a Government and a Prime Minister that went on a Far Eastern trip with a butler and a maid. However, they were not an ordinary butler and maid. Yes, the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) told us that this was no ordinary butler. This butler was a combination of James Bond and a butler. He was a security butler so we could ensure that indeed the Prime Minister's clothes and so on were in the proper place at the proper time for security purposes. I ask you, since when is the Prime Minister's underwear a