

Government Orders

government decides that the vehicles in Costa Rica are not good enough for our Prime Minister.

Mr. Hawkes: Liar, liar, liar.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The hon. government whip knows what he has to do. He has been around here for a long time. I know it is very warm outside and is also very warm in here, too. Sometimes members get excited, but I am sure the hon. member knows that he has to withdraw.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, in sitting here today and listening to him talk about an RCMP decision as if the government made it, I was impelled—

Mr. Vincent: It was the RCMP.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The government whip should withdraw his comment.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I would be only too happy to withdraw and point out that the member opposite—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

An hon. member: I said you are not saying the truth.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Burin—St. George's.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, parliamentary niceties aside, I am sure my friend the government whip was trying to make a point. I believe the point he was trying to make—and I will make it for him—was that I was not telling the truth when I suggested, alleged, or informed the House that two vehicles were flown to Costa Rica for the use of the Prime Minister who was going there on government business. That I understand to be the case.

Mr. Hawkes: That is true.

Mr. Simmons: Now he says it is true. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkes: That is true. It was on government business, but it was the RCMP who made the decision.

Mr. Simmons: He makes the fine distinction that it was not the government, it was the RCMP.

Mr. Hawkes: Are you going to tell the RCMP what to do?

An hon. member: They do not tell you what to do.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I realize that under Standing Order 43 there are no questions or comments for the hon. member. I know hon. members like to get their questions and comments in during a speech, but I would hope that hon. members would refrain so the hon. member can complete his debate.

Mr. Foster: Now, straighten them out once and for all.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, let me try one more time to say that I would find it passing strange if the Prime Minister did not want those cars there if someone decided to bring them anyway. I have no doubt that they were brought at the specific request of the Prime Minister. It also tells us volumes about his style of prime ministership. That is another theme that I won't—

Mr. Hawkes: How many agents have bullet-proof limousines?

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I think we struck a nerve here. Let me just quickly make this point and get off it. The point is that if you are going to brag about good government management, and I say to the gentleman from Trois—Rivières, I am going to give some examples so the people of Canada can decide for themselves. The one I have put on the record concerns flying two limousines to Costa Rica and, by the way, finding out after the fact there is no gas for them. That is an interesting aside I should have mentioned. I do not think that constitutes good government management.

Mr. Hawkes: Give us an example.

Mr. Simmons: Oh, the member wants another example. Why does he not get up and tell us about the 160 or so vans the government bought for the Open Skies conference because it wanted to drag a bit of luggage from the airport. Why does he not tell us about that example of good government management? I can give him examples. Let us go back to the Costa Rica objection, that somehow the RCMP is not government. The last time I checked the public accounts of this country, the RCMP expenditures were part of the public accounts. I believe that is still the case, but the member know that already.

Mr. Hawkes: You can't find a government example.