

Time Allocation

amounts to \$875 million at the moment, could go well over the billion-dollar mark. That is a very substantial amount of money.

What is \$1 billion worth to this Government? I think that that is a question that members of my Party have been asking a great deal. It is shocking that the Conservative Government could easily find \$1 billion, and perhaps even more if necessary, for a bank bail-out while it has not been able to find that kind of money for old age pensioners, family allowance recipients, the users of child tax credits and those who benefit from social programs. The amount of money the Government proposes to save on its child support programs this year is one-fifth of \$1 billion. In other words, the Government can find five times as much money for a bank bail-out as it can for supporting Canadian children. We know that one in five Canadian children lives under the poverty line.

An amount of \$1 billion spent on arts and culture would be an enormous infusion of funds to that area. This year, there were cut-backs of \$100 million in arts and culture, yet the Government can find \$1 billion for the banks. In short, the bail-out amounts to 10 times as much money as the Government decided to cut out of the area of arts and culture, an area which could do so much to build our country and bring good jobs to Canadians.

In conclusion, I am very concerned about the amount of money involved in this bail-out and about the fact that we are not receiving the names of those involved. There is no accountability to the public and this is money that could be so much better spent in so many other priority areas.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak in this debate. I and many of my colleagues did not speak during the original debate in order to give a full opportunity to members of the Opposition to put their points on the record. Therefore, within the context of this debate on time allocation, I would like to put a few points on the record with respect to the Bill that is before us.

I think it is important that we have on the record some remarks made by Conservative Members of Parliament from the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Parry: Otto, take him out to the ball game.

Mr. Lewis: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. There is some babble from across the way. Perhaps the Hon. Member could put that in writing. It is a real shame to see members of the NDP, who should be supporting pension funds, universities and small credit unions, reacting in this way. One would have thought that members of the NDP, particularly with their strong western representation—

Mr. Rodriguez: Let's have a means test.

Mr. Cassidy: Let's hear it for foreign banks.

Mr. Lewis: I thought they wanted to support western Canadians.

Mr. Cassidy: Those poor, benighted orphans of capitalism.

Mr. Lewis: I think it is a shame to hear members of the NDP shouting against what we are trying to do, which is to support first, the Province of Alberta and the people of Alberta who invested in these banks and, second—

Mr. Rodriguez: Like Peter Pocklington.

Mr. Lewis: —the regional banking system. I wish to refer specifically to the recession and what it, propagated, promulgated and assisted by the NDP and the Liberal Party, did to the Province of Alberta. We know that in Canada as a whole we had problems. However, the recession in the West was heightened by the efforts of the Liberal Party and heightened by the implementation of the national energy policy supported by the NDP. Everyone in this House knows, and it should go on the record, that the NDP and the Liberals heightened the depression out west. We in Ontario are fortunate. Our economy has rebounded. We have a resilient economy, despite the fact that we now have an accord between the socialists and the Liberals in Ontario.

• (1250)

What the Conservative Party is doing is to support the bank and trying to strengthen the economy of the West. It is a shame that western members of the New Democratic Party are against the economy of the West. It is a shame that the western members of the New Democratic Party are against strengthening the economy of the West.

Mr. Cassidy: Your Government is giving money to the foreign banks.

Mr. Lewis: Let us talk about the foreign banks. The credibility of the Hon. Member—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: These people are being paid from taxpayers' money.

Mr. Rodriguez: Poor westerners.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I hate to interrupt the Hon. Members. It seems that I keep hearing things.

Mr. Fulton: Not Mackenzie King voices!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): It could be from the same source. However, I would appreciate it if Members from all sides of the House would keep the tone down and let the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary finish his speech.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Did I hear you correctly suggesting that it was the spirits which surrounded Mackenzie King which led the Government to bring in this bail-out Bill?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): No. From what I keep hearing from a certain part of the House, I am under the