

Taxation

Baker) took advantage of the situation to air a grievance, a procedure which has not been used very often but is quite legitimate. The discussions went on with several interruptions. But at one point the government did call a government order. During the course of the proceedings which followed some members still spoke on the grievance. At one point I did recognize that debate had started on the government order, although I was not sure the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton realized that he was to speak on it. The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) quoted that part of *Hansard* wherein the Chair felt the House was on the government order but was not sure whether the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton was really debating it. It was a very confused situation, with many hon. members yelling back and forth. As I often say, this is not the best way of conducting debate in the House of Commons, but of course those situations occur. Perhaps the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton might be heard at a later time or now, if he should like to continue and speak on the Order which was just called; I could still recognize him. If he wanted to resume debate now, I would recognize him for that purpose.

• (2110)

The House resumed, from Wednesday, March 31, consideration of the motion of Mr. Bussi eres that Bill C-93, to amend the statute law relating to certain taxes and to provide other authority for the raising of funds, be read the second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I want to thank you very much. I think you indicated clearly in what you said that things are not always in the House as the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) may think they are. Indeed there is some doubt about it. The matter of grievance is an old process. It was one used by me prior to 1978 in a matter dealing with the hon. Mr. Judd Buchanan. I do not want to proceed with the grievance; I should like to exercise the right Madam Speaker has given me to take part in the debate.

I think it is most unusual to have the opportunity of beginning a debate like this on a bill which is most unusual. I thank Madam Speaker for giving me the opportunity. The government may regret arguing, as it has done, that it is a grievance because we are in a very interesting time in Canadian public life. Approximately 25 hours ago all of us were sitting with bated breath wondering what would happen in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would invite the hon. member to speak to Bill C-93.

Mr. Nielsen: He is doing just that.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): The hon. gentleman cannot go back on his word. He forgets, of course, that there is more to Canada than just central Canada when we are talking about borrowing authority. There is western Canada about which some people forget. There is great concern about this unusual bill in all parts of the country. Whether or not hon. members

on the back benches of the party opposite realize it, this is the first time in Canadian legislative history when there has been put together a borrowing bill on the one hand and a tax bill on the other in the same bill. This is the first time. It is just that kind of thing which has caused the Liberal Party of Canada to be eroded in public confidence province by province by province. This is why last night in Saskatchewan it got zilch; that is why it received zilch in that vote.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): It got 4 per cent of the vote, that is one more percentage of the vote than the separatists. That is some record in Saskatchewan! Let us not be mystified about the intentions of Canadians with respect to economic matters as they relate to tax bills, the budget and the general economic circumstances of the government which make them see fit somehow or other to take this unprecedented step.

I am very happy to have the opportunity of speaking in the debate tonight and I am happy that that point is clear. As the President of the Privy Council said, I believe this bill deals with taxation, the right of the government to extract money, the right of the government to borrow money to put Canadian people further and further in debt, to pile debt upon debt and increase the deficit. All these matters indicate the facts that the country is out of control and that the government is out of control.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is asleep. The Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) is walking around in a Cape Breton fog. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) has nothing better to do than to raise specious points of privilege today when the national energy policy is driving drilling rigs out of Canada. That is what we are talking about. If hon. members opposite have their perspective so centred on central Canada that they forget there are regions of the country which are suffering from their economic policy, they do not deserve to be in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): This is what the people of Canada are facing. "Economic Gloom Deepens" was the title of a story which appeared in the Ottawa *Citizen* on April 22, 1982. There is not an hon. member opposite who has not returned to his or her riding, gone out in public in the sunshine and talked with people. There is not one of them who has not met small business people, farmers, workers, owners of companies, investors and even bankers who are not concerned about what is happening in the country. What do these mugs of Meach Lake do about it? They went up to the retreat in the Gatineau Hills, probably in the riding of the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Cousineau). He should have gone. He could have sorted them out. He is an ordinary guy. He does not live the high life. He does not live on that great mountain at Meach Lake from where he can look, in grandeur, like a duke over his kingdom. He gets the devil from his constituents. He is not really responsible for it, although I believe he is in part because he supports the government vote after vote after vote,