

Supply

which is a belief that entitlement programs should be dismantled. I look on this gold-plated MP pension plan as one of those entitlement provisions that over time the House of Commons has given to their members.

I guess I would have to call myself a disentitlementarian because I will continue in this regard as far as a pension is concerned.

The constituents in my riding are furious. They continue to be furious about MP pension plans. In the townhall meeting I had last week it did not matter what the topic, it always came back to MP pensions. You could see the red start to rise above their collars. As I said before, voters, the electorate, will remember what has been said today. We have to address that and ignore their concerns at our peril.

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I recognize that I do not have a lot of time to speak on this issue but there are a couple of things I would like to respond to that were brought forward, particularly by members on the other side.

Several times I heard speakers say that MPs have to be properly remunerated if we are going to get quality in this place. I remind the hon. members that we have a best selling book out right now called *On the Take* written by Stevie Cameron. It speaks about MPs who are paid very well and who are subscribing to this gold-plated pension plan. The book outlines scandal after scandal of abuse of privileges that are available in this House. Yet this situation is not of concern to the members on the other side because they do not seem to think that the remuneration and the gold-plated pension plan will have an impact.

I suggest that if we can attract people to this place who do not want to be on the take and who are not looking at the pension plan we will probably get better quality. It is those people who are looking for a fleecy-lined retirement, looking for that paradise that comes with parliamentary service, that we want to exclude from this place.

I am concerned about these multimillion dollar pensions that, for instance, the member for Sherbrooke will be receiving should his party be decimated and the final two members moved into extinction.

The other concern that I have is that if we do not deal with some of the perks and particularly the pension, Stevie Cameron will write another book and that book will be called "On the Take No. 2". It will refer to the current Liberal government and those members who put their own best interests ahead of the interests of Canadian taxpayers, those members who looked for every possible excuse and made flowery speeches about how deserving they were of all these dollars the taxpayers worked so hard for, to which they are entitled after six short years of service. It is unconscionable.

I urge the other members, in the few remaining minutes and seconds we have, to consider the situation, to support the Reform motion today and to commit to reforming the MPs' pension plan to please Canadians and to restore respect to this place, which is what Canadians are crying for.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): It being 5.22 p.m., it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 81, to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the business of supply.

Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): The vote is on the motion standing in the name of Miss Grey (Beaver River).

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Call in the members.

(The House divided on the motion, which was negated on the following division:)

(Division No. 109)

YEAS

Members

Abbott
Brown (Calgary Southeast)
Cummins
Forseth
Gilmour
Grey (Beaver River)
Hanger
Harper (Simcoe Centre)
Hart
Hermanson
Hill (Prince George—Peace River)
Jennings
Manning
McClelland (Edmonton Southwest)
Mills (Red Deer)
Penson
Ringma
Scott (Skeena)
Solomon
Stinson
Thompson

Benoit
Chatters
Epp
Frazer
Gouk
Grubel
Harper (Calgary West)
Harris
Hayes
Hill (Macleod)
Hoepfner
Kerpan
Martin (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca)
Meredith
Morrison
Ramsay
Schmidt
Solberg
Speaker
Strahl
White (Fraser Valley West)—42