

● (1650)

Mr. Rossi: You should have done the same thing before when our Member was speaking.

Mr. McDermid: I did—

Mr. Rossi: You were blabbering away.

Mr. McDermid: There is the Hon. Member who is never on his feet in the House of Commons. He always speaks from his seat, the honourable flat-foot from Montreal.

To get back to the subject at hand, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the Government has produced a list of some 25 groups which are receiving funding from this particular Bill. The accusation has been made today by a number of Hon. Members who spoke that this Government is trying to hide something.

Mr. Boudria: Of course it is.

Mr. McDermid: I deny that categorically for this reason—

Mr. Keeper: Because you are hiding something.

Mr. McDermid:—first we have asked Justice Estey to get to the bottom of the entire matter, to find out what went wrong with these particular banks. Justice Estey has the names of all of the depositors. There is no cover-up at all. I think that Hon. Members will admit the evidence which has been presented has been frank and I say to the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong), who made these wild accusations—and I wrote them down—that we are being embarrassed by the study, not at all. We appointed Justice Estey and asked him to come in with a full report as to why that bank collapsed. We are not embarrassed by it at all.

Mr. de Jong: You should be.

Mr. McDermid: I think the previous administration is going to feel the heat, I can tell you that, when the report comes out.

Mr. de Jong: So is the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

Mr. McDermid: I am sure it will. But there is no way that we are being embarrassed because we want to find out why the bank failed in order to prevent that kind of thing from happening in Canada in the future. It is very important to us.

For some reason, the Opposition thinks that anyone who has \$60,000 on deposit in a bank is a rich person, and I challenge that. I can think of many, many senior citizens who over the years have purchased homes, have paid off their homes, who sell their homes, have a nest egg, and who live off the interest on that nest egg. However, I can tell Hon. Members opposite that someone living off the interest on \$100,000, and they are lucky if they can get 10 per cent today, only receives \$10,000 a year. That is not wealthy by today's standards.

For some reason the Opposition want the list of every single depositor so that they can go on a witch-hunt and those Hon. Members can decide in their wisdom who should get reim-

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bursed and who should not. The Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) suggested that we Parliamentarians should decide who should get reimbursed and who should not.

Miss Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The amendment which is standing in my name is exactly the same as the amendment standing in the name of the Member of the New Democratic Party. In each case, what the amendment provides is that the names of those who receive these *ex gratia* payments be published in the Public Accounts of Canada, in other words, that they be published after the event. Therefore when the Hon. Member speaks about going on a witch-hunt or doing an examination before the event—

Mr. McDermid: That is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker, for heaven's sake. She has already had her time on debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member may or may not have misunderstood but, nonetheless, it is a matter of debate. The Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid) has the floor.

Mr. McDermid: The Hon. Member already had her 10 minutes. If she wants another 10 minutes, then she is going to have to move another amendment.

Miss Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, my understanding was that the debate was on the amendment, not on what someone perceives the amendment to be.

Mr. Boudria: That is a good point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With respect to the Hon. Member, the Chair believes that the Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown is in fact speaking on the amendment.

An Hon. Member: As he always does.

Mr. McDermid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I try to be relevant at all times.

Mr. de Jong: Then why don't you succeed?

Mr. McDermid: I would like to speak for a moment about the Hon. Member for Regina East who fought very hard that the depositors in Pioneer Trust be reimbursed. I never heard him once mention that they be listed. He never once mentioned in this House that we should produce a list of all of the depositors in Pioneer Trust who got reimbursed. Yet he stands here today and demands it for this situation. That is hypocritical in my book.

I have to give the Hon. Member full marks, however. He fought for those depositors in Pioneer Trust. But he never once demanded that those names be published. You know why, Mr. Speaker? It is because they were his constituents, that is why.

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker—

An Hon. Member: Sit down.