Government Orders

or restore any clause in the said Bill, it be printed on a Notice Paper; and

That, immediately after the adoption at third reading of a Bill standing in the name of the President of the Treasury Board entitled "An Act respecting compensation in the public sector of Canada and to amend another Act in relation thereto", this Order shall be rescinded.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I think the purpose of this motion is self-evident. It is to allow this House to sit daily, including on weekends, for the necessary time to get this important legislation passed.

May I say just parenthetically that I was reminded by a letter from a former colleague who wrote to me the other day and said: "How come we still have this archaic process of first reading, second reading, committee stage, report stage and third reading which was designed 125 years ago when we did not have these modern communications? It was designed in a day when it was—

• (1730)

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister is letting us know what he received in a letter and he might let us know what he mailed back too. The hon. minister.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, there has been some comment by a number of people in the last few months, most particularly I suppose by the Spicer commission, about the decorum in this place; the barracking, the shouting down, the not allowing members to speak, the rather childish behaviour that we see. I am quite prepared, as I have earlier this afternoon, to sit silently to listen to the opposite side.

I would hope that out of respect for those who look to this institution for leadership and guidance that we in fact would have the same courtesy and that those who feel compelled to speak would simply submit their names to their House leaders and they will have an opportunity to do so. In the meantime common decency would dictate that the polite thing to do is to allow a member to speak.

As I was indicating, this former colleague who wrote and talked about these practices said that he was particularly struck watching the other jurisdictions who seem to have had more modern procedures. However, that is a subject for another day.

In the 1991 budget the government laid out its plan for economic recovery, a recovery that not only puts the recession behind us, but which also leads us towards continuing growth and prosperity. The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development projects that Canada will lead the G-7 nations next year as a result of the budget process we have in place.

We did not deny in the budget however that it would be necessarily easy, particularly in view of the opposition we faced from those in our society who do not agree with our approach because ours is not an approach for more government intervention. It is an approach which calls for less interference by government, recognizing that if growth is to be strong and ongoing, the economy must be free from undue restrictions and we are being attacked on that position.

Our approach calls for less government spending, not more. We are also being attacked and challenged at every turn by those who do not agree with this approach. Indeed, daily in Question Period, including today, we have had calls from the opposition to spend more money on this and that, worthy causes to be sure. Unless one is willing to stand up and say: "I want more money spent on this and I am willing to see taxes increased or the deficit increased or the government cut back on some other area to fund this program", they are not acting responsibly. You cannot keep demanding more and more without admitting that what you are asking for is more money from the taxpayers.

The taxpayers have said: "We have had enough. We have had enough paying to government for them to distribute. We want that money left in our own pockets". They are saying: "We think the deficit is too high. We are leaving a terrible legacy and we want you to bring the deficit and debt down". They are saying that every time we cut some government service to keep to this fiscal plan: "We don't like what you have cut".

That is the difficulty, but it is a difficulty that has to be faced by responsible people and we are doing that.

Our approach is based on less government spending, lower deficits and as a result, lower interest rates and we are seeing the success of that interest rates keep coming down. Our plan for economic recovery will bring about even lower interest rates through the following actions: clearly achievable inflation targets of 3 per cent by the end of 1992, 2 per cent by the end of 1995. Lower inflation and lower expectations will lead to lower interest rates. The plan calls for us to put government finances firmly on the course to a balanced budget. We cannot keep borrowing from the future generations to finance our spending today.