

The average Canadian is absolutely convinced that most of us are here because it is going to make us rich and famous and when we get through here we are going to be not quite so famous but infinitely richer. It just is not so.

I live in Windsor, Ontario. Every Sunday when I look at the *Detroit Free Press News* I see reports of crime and criminal activity, the corruption of one politician or another, whether it be a mayor, a member of council, a police commissioner, or whomever. Corruption is as American as apple pie. You can see it every day, day in and day out. When talking about corruption, we are in the minor leagues of the minor leagues.

Consider for example the savings and loan scandal. Consider the number of reports of congressmen and senators lining their own pockets. Think of the reality of members of the U.S. Senate or Congress raising money for a campaign and when they resign they put the money in their pockets. Look at the kind of situation that creates.

It is true that kind of image of politicians affects how Canadians think of us. I think it is far more important to consider how Canadians weigh us in terms of our functions here to the extent to which we represent principle, to the extent to which we represent the people who elect us and to the extent to which we act consistent with principles that have been identified with us and with our parties.

The hon. member for Edmonton Southeast who has been so passionate in his condemnation of the Conservatives and what he sees as so much corruption better weigh the impression he has created about politics by his own acts. I am not talking about corrupt acts or anything of the sort. I am not talking about patronage. I am not talking about lining his own pocket. But what are we going to say about the principles of conservatism if you are a Conservative for many years and you get into a pique and you cross the aisle? What does that say about what he stands for? Is he a Conservative or is he a Liberal?

If a tragedy should beset this country such as the election of a Liberal government, the moment his government acts just like any other government and his

colleagues are found to be just as human as the Conservatives will he then become a New Democrat?

I will tell you the answer to that. No. No, because we will not accept him. We will not accept him because politics and belonging to a party is something other than being merely comfortable. If he were so upset about the behaviour of Conservatives he should have stayed there and changed things if he was a Conservative. But of course he is not a Conservative, he is not a Liberal, he is not anything. He is what he chooses to be. When he was thinking about all of this corruption—

**An hon. member:** Madam Butterfly.

**Mr. Volpe:** I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. I think it is traditional in these debates that we try to stay off the personal as much as possible. We are getting to a point here where, without naming the member, we are making some rather personal references. I think that goes beyond the requirements of debate.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member might have wanted to listen to one of his colleagues a bit earlier today. We will be careful.

**Mr. McCurdy:** Thank you for that, Madam Speaker. What can be more personal than standing in this House and categorizing the innocent and the guilty alike as political criminals of one sort or another. That is what is wrong with this.

I wonder whether the hon. member for Edmonton Southeast was altogether conscious of the past of his own party and how his former leader ended up losing an election. Remember what the penultimate Leader of the Official Opposition had to say. "I had no choice". Do you remember, Madam Speaker, the wave of patronage appointments of the kind that the member for Edmonton Southeast dislikes so much being made as a dying government tried to pay off all who had supported it.

Do you remember a Liberal senator who faced charges of fraud? If the hon. member really believes what he said about public trust, private benefits and condemnation of people who leave this place to go out into the outside world and take advantage of their political standing, what about Judy Erola.

Let us talk about public trust. What about the Leader of the Official Opposition? What about the member for Vancouver Quadra who sits as a member of the board of