

longstanding fact of parliamentary life that governments introduce bills but oppositions dispose of bills. In other words, the opposition really controls the timetable of a bill. That is, to a very large extent, the case now. I think it was the case in the House of Commons and it is certainly the case here.

I am not urging undue haste in examining this bill because we certainly will have all of next week to do so.

On motion of Senator Leblanc, debate adjourned.

[Translation]

FAMILY ALLOWANCES ACT, 1973

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Tremblay, seconded by the Honourable Senator Murray, for the second reading of the Bill C-70, intituled: "An Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973".—
(Honourable Senator Thériault).

Hon. Philippe D. Gigantès: Honourable senators, Senator Thériault being absent, may I take the floor?

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Does Senator Gigantès have leave to speak today instead of Senator Thériault?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Agreed.

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: On a point of order, honourable senators, this will not prevent Senator Thériault from speaking after our colleague, will it?

Senator Frith: No, normally no one would rise if the adjournment motion is in the name of another senator. Leave is usually granted by the senator who has already moved the adjournment and whose name appears on the Orders of the Day. I discussed the matter with Senator Thériault and that is why I said "Agreed". Senator Thériault told me he would be glad if Senator Gigantès would speak today. I think he intends to follow Senator Gigantès or take the floor tomorrow.

Senator Corbin: I thank Senator Frith for this clarification. Since the Chair used the words "instead of Senator Thériault", I simply wanted to make sure that Senator Thériault would have the right to speak, even after Senator Gigantès.

Senator Gigantès: Well, the matter has been cleared up, thank you.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, one should say "during his absence".

Senator Frith: To be perfectly clear, honourable senators, what Senator Corbin wants to emphasize is that Senator Thériault has not lost the right to speak simply because we granted leave to Senator Gigantès to proceed.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: A wasted effort.

Senator Gigantès: Honourable senators, Bill C-70, the legality and constitutionality of which remain somewhat fuzzy for the time being, in view of the fact that it is already being implemented without having been approved by the Senate

(which I find a little bit funny) cannot be considered in a vacuum; it must be viewed in the context of all the other measures taken dealing with the issue of assistance to families with children.

When we consider these measures as a whole, we realize that this government has attacked middle and low income families. We realize also that this same government, on the other hand, has spared the affluent and the major corporations. I intend to demonstrate this point to you this afternoon.

The government will be depriving 3.5 million families of a total amount of \$15 million in 1985-86, and \$40 million, in 1986-87. I find it quite immoral for this government to ask these families to tighten their belts, when it managed to find a billion dollars to save those people who had invested \$60,000 or more in the two banking establishment which failed in spite of the government's bungled efforts.

The National Council on Social Welfare, an organization whose objectivity and good faith could not be questioned, estimates that the government's decision to deindex family assistance benefits will result in a loss of \$22 for a very poor family with two dependent children in 1986. You may say: What is \$22? It is not much.

However, if you take a hard look at the whole package of measures, as I did, you will discover that the costs are much higher, especially for the period from 1986 to 1991.

Senator Flynn: Why not until 2050?

Senator Gigantès: I could do it, if you insist.

Senator Flynn: That would not be relevant.

Senator Gigantès: Because I know that you love my computations, I have brought a pocket calculator especially for you. If you so desire, I am at your disposal.

Senator Flynn: You must be kidding!

Senator Gigantès: If you want to, I could even help you prepare your income tax return.

Senator Flynn: You are insulting the intelligence of the Senate.

Senator Gigantès: Finally, the Coalition of Women for Family Allowances has appealed to the Prime Minister through a petition which I hope you have read. This coalition does not question the need for fiscal responsibility. It simply asks: Does the government act responsibly and fairly when it deprives families with one dependant child of \$175 million in 1986, while exempting hundreds of millions of dollars in capital gains tax, increasing by \$80 million the capacity for affluent people to invest more in RRSPs, giving a one billion dollar tax break to the major oil companies, and \$900 million to compensate the major depositors in the failed Commercial Bank of Canada.

According to this coalition, the cumulative total which the government will take from these families through these measures between 1984 and 1989 is \$2 billion, and I will give you an in-depth analysis of this figure.