

*Anti-Inflation Act*

spent \$15,981 to renovate his office. I guess the policy is, what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

**An hon. Member:** Don't speak of Newfoundland that way.

**Mr. Coates:** I do not know much about Newfoundland, but the poor Newfoundlanders would be shocked if they ever learned what some of these ministers are doing.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Coates:** Then we have the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. The minister spent \$8,540. He restrained himself, but he didn't talk to all the fellows down the line. His deputy minister decided he might as well go gung-ho and renovated his office at a cost \$4,150. Then he looked at his office and said to himself, "The office does not look quite right. It has been all renovated, but we had better have some new furniture"—and he spent twice as much on that as he did on renovation.

The same sort of thing took place in respect of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen). He was very restrained but he, too, forgot to talk to the fellows down the line. His deputy minister thought his office was not quite right, so he spent \$1,200 to renovate it. He did not like its looks after he renovated it, so he spent \$14,117 producing new furniture. I am sure he is now very pleased with all the classy furniture in his office.

● (1650)

The situation is different in respect of the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand). He has been sort of frugal, but he is not around the office very much; he is away campaigning in respect of capital punishment. I suppose all he wants is one of those United States electric chairs, which are no longer in operation, so he can put it on display as some sort of a museum piece for the abolitionists in the country to look at. Maybe we can find a chair for him somewhere else outside this House. However, his deputy minister did about four times as good as the Solicitor General: he spent \$5,254.88 for new furnishings for his office. I suppose he figured he needed a better office than the Solicitor General who is never around anyway.

Then there is the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson) who is trying to have all the builders injected with some kind of Canadianism so they will construct buildings from which they cannot secure sufficient rent to pay for their cost. He thought he would do something to renovate his departmental office. There is a reference to lights. Certainly there is a need for light in this regard. The lights cost \$2,349. The furniture to go with the lights cost \$3,763.87. Then his deputy minister said, "If the minister can furnish his office in this way, I had better see what I can do." He spend \$15,094 on furniture for his office.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) is a very frugal man. He tried to maintain a certain degree of restraint in what he was doing. He spent \$772 on his departmental office and \$3,767 on his House of Commons office. But let me tell you about his deputy minister. He spent \$15,000-odd in renovation and new furniture. These people have to live the right way.

[Mr. Coates.]

When we come to the Minister of Communications, that is a different story. He did not like his departmental offices at all, so he had them all redone. He spent \$9,477. Let me tell you something. His deputy minister thought that if the minister could spend some \$9,000 on furnishings for his office, maybe he could spend \$1,484 on new furniture and perhaps people would not be too upset about it. But his assistant deputy minister did not like what he did, so he spent \$20,915. That is restraint!

That is exactly what this government tells the people of Canada: Restrain yourselves and do not spend too much money. As a matter of fact, there will not be too much money for them to spend because when the government finishes its spending there will not be too much money left for anybody else.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Wait until I get to the offices of the Tory MPs.

**Mr. Coates:** I suggest to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) that any time he wants to, I will change offices with him and be very happy to do so.

**Mr. Lalonde:** You will be disappointed.

**Mr. Coates:** I will not be the least disappointed. As a matter of fact, it will not be long before we change offices and he will get used to the kind of offices we have now. Mr. Speaker, this is very enjoyable, but I really do not think it would be proper for me to name more than the Minister of Communications at this time. I will come back at eight o'clock and give the second chapter of the same thing.

**An hon. Member:** Speak to your whip about your office.

**Mr. Coates:** So far as the provision of offices by the whip is concerned, I am satisfied with the office I have. What I am interested in is our whip taking the office of the whip of the government party now, tomorrow, next week or whenever we have an election. It will not be too long before we will have those offices provided to us.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** You are dreaming.

**Mr. Coates:** For the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who seems to be so interested in this topic, may I say I should like him to explain to the people of Canada how much restraint there was in the \$62,000 he spent on "Why not" buttons? I suggest to him there are many people in this country who would say "Why not" and give the answer in respect of the \$62,000 expenditure on buttons.

Since it is getting close to five o'clock, I only have time to provide the information about the Minister of Communications. He did not like his office in the department, so he spent \$9,477.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Should not the hon. member make it clear that he is talking about the former minister of communications. The present minister is not a he.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Apologize.

**Mr. Alexander:** We submit an apology. Let us have a little order over there.