

else within the Liberal organization, someone inside or outside the other place, calling the shots? These are some of the questions to which answers should be given before the Prairie Farm Assistance Act is repealed.

There is another point which must not be overlooked. Is there a double interpretation placed on the laws of this country as they affect those employed in the field and appointees to the other place who are paid by public funds too, both working for the government? If the persons in the field now being investigated were trying to sell Liberal policies, is it fair to prosecute those who were involved while similar performances by Liberal appointees to the other chamber are permitted to continue without question? Is there a law for the rich and a law for the poor?

A newspaper article which appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* on September 6, 1974, under the heading "The Senate—The Who's Who of Liberal functionaries," brings out some shocking facts and, with your permission, Madam Speaker, I should like to quote a few paragraphs from it. I read:

"I am, and have been since the fall of 1968, the chairman of the Finance and Treasury Committees of the Liberal Party of Canada, and in that capacity I have the overall responsibility for raising the funds for the federal Liberal party, not only at election time but also to maintain its activities between elections."

Notes from an address to a Liberal gathering somewhere in Canada? Not on your life. A speech by a new member of the Senate of Canada. Date? Jan. 10, 1974. The speaker? Senator John M. Godfrey.

In the past, appointments were used as rewards for past performance, usually on completion of a tour of duty. It is obvious from Senator John Godfrey's speech that it is now the oasis for present and not past performance. Look at the recent election campaign and you will discover that the Who's Who of the Liberal Campaign Committee resided in the Senate of Canada.

The national campaign headquarters of the Liberal Party of Canada lists Senator Keith Davey as the Co-Chairman with Jean Marchand of their national campaign committee. Also listed are Senator Gildas Molgat as the President of the Liberal Party of Canada; Senator R. J. (Ray) Perrault as Chairman for British Columbia; Senator Earl Hastings as Chairman for Alberta; Senator Jean-Pierre Côté as Chairman for Quebec and Senator Lorne Bonnell as Chairman for Prince Edward Island.

But it doesn't end there. We have Senator Al Graham as the President of the Liberal Party in Nova Scotia. Also Senator Richard Stanbury as past-president of the Liberal Party of Canada. Then we have a long list of Senators involved in the financing of the party as members and contributors to the committees, headed by Senator John Godfrey. Among those actively involved are John Aird of Toronto, Sydney Buckwold of Saskatoon, Douglas Everett of Winnipeg, Louis-Philippe Gelinat and Louis Giguere of Montreal, Harry Hays of Calgary, Dan Riley of Saint John, Irvine Barrow of Halifax and George Van Roggen of Vancouver.

It is an impressive list and it doesn't take long to learn how Pierre Elliott Trudeau has set about to reform the Senate. He has determined it is much better to have the taxpayers of Canada providing the dollars to operate his party than to take them from the party's war chest. At a time when the nation requires the very best in performance from the parliament of Canada, the Prime Minister is turning one arm of the institution into a Liberal party machine. It is a very sad commentary on both parliament and the objectives of men appointed to that body. Surely we should be able to turn to the Senate and anticipate something more than the partisan meanderings of a far-too-large coterie of its membership.

But if the Senate is to be developed into Liberal party headquarters and if those who accept appointment to that institution are willing to give their allegiance to their party rather than to the nation, Canadians should seriously consider—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order. I fail to see the link between the article the hon. member is reading

Prairie Farm Assistance Act

and the bill which is before the House. Perhaps the hon. member would return to the bill now.

Mr. Towers: Madam Speaker, I am trying to make the point that someone, or some organization, is responsible. It is well known that the Liberal organization has infiltrated the very roots of our society. Our democratic system has been undermined and brought to a very low level as this type of manouvering and manipulation of public funds continues without any apparent suspicion of impropriety. Why should our taxpayers, regardless of their political affiliation, pay for the operations of the federal Liberal party in this undercover way, particularly when one remembers that its leader has described himself as "a hell of a rich guy?"

We are aware that people in the middle-income bracket pay more taxes than any other segment of society, but few taxpayers in any income bracket would condone the policy of squandering tax dollars as a means of selling the Liberal party through its own upper chamber members. They hide behind their title and the so-called red chamber—their sanctuary. What sanctuary is there for Liberal party workers who through some form of persuasion—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): I regret to interrupt the hon. member again, but let me remind him that the title of the bill before us is an Act to repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Towers: I am sorry, Madam Speaker, but had you been in the chair when the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain spoke, and during the remarks made by the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin), you would realize that an investigation is taking place into PFAA at the present time. We feel this investigation should be completed before the House is asked to debate the bill before us. We are trying to find out at this point who is responsible, who caused this investigation to be necessary? The people out on the prairies, the supervisors, are the ones who are going to take the rap. It is a shame if we have developed a democratic system which will allow those people to be prosecuted. At the same time there are people in the other chamber doing exactly the same thing, yet they are protected because they are all appointed by the Liberal machine. This is why we have a problem, Madam Speaker. Why protect one segment of our society but allow another segment to be prosecuted?

● (1710)

If the people of Canada do not demand that this demonstrated wrongdoing within a level of this parliament be stopped, and stopped immediately, they will live to regret it. This government is destroying the democratic system. The upper house should be purged of all those who carry on partisan activities under the guise of legislators.

Just as we must not cast suspicion on anyone until he is proven guilty, let us not overlook the fact that there are many who accepted appointments to the other place with a desire to carry out their legitimate duties, and they are not involved in Liberal fund raising activities or propaganda publicizing. How frustrating and belittling it must be for these sincere members to be compelled to bear the same