

Government Orders

agement of the Canadian economy. They are tired, Madam Speaker. They are worn out. They have come to the stage in their political careers where they do not care any more.

Amendments on user fees, amendments to Canada Ports Corporation, consequential or technical, let it go. We do not really care. We do not have the political will. We do not really understand, but "give me the keys to the car because I want to be a minister". That is what they are saying to themselves. Havoc for a few more months. If they were really concerned, they would have substantive arguments to rebut my assertions.

The minister did not do that. He did not rebut any of my assertions. He could not give me a good reason as to why Bill C-35 is being put forward today in terms of this amendment on the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, as well as the other amendments which are tied up in this particular bill.

We have reached the conclusion that this government is tired. It is worn out, and it should do the honourable thing. I am not saying this, Madam Speaker. If they want to have an election, I would be forced to run and I would run.

An hon. member: Would you win?

Mr. Dingwall: I would have a chance.

An hon. member: Do the Tories have a chance in your riding?

Mr. Dingwall: Absolutely not.

The honourable thing is to admit when you are wrong, to correct your mistake and to move on, but this government? Under no circumstances. It knows it all. We saw it on the GST. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians said: "We do not want it", and they proceeded. The free trade agreement. Opposition party after opposition party, our colleagues in the Senate, the upper house, Canadians from coast to coast, in excess of 60 per cent opposed it, what did the government say: "No, we are going to do it anyway."

Ms. Clancy: And look what happened.

Mr. Dingwall: And look what happened. No wonder the country is in such havoc and in such a cranky mood.

The parliamentary secretary will probably want to enter the debate and I would be happy if he would debate. I would be happy if any of the members opposite would debate substantive things which are important to Canadians, but the fact of the matter is, not only are the Conservatives incompetent, not only have they mismanaged the economy, not only are they sloppy in terms of Bill C-35 and how it is introduced, they just do not care.

If you live in Nova Scotia, if you live in British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario, any part of the maritimes or western Canada it is evident and very clear that the government does not care about what is going on in the Canadian economy. It does not really care. What it does care about is patronage. We see it everywhere with this government.

An hon. member: Is this relevant?

Mr. Dingwall: It is relevant to the government because I cannot understand why the government opposite would leave a deputy minister in his or her place after making the statements that the president of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency has made. Either one is not telling the truth. It is either the deputy minister or it is the government that is not telling the truth.

The parliamentary secretary says: "Oh", like I am supposed to be scared and run under the table and hide, but that is the truth. I did not make it up. The president of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency has said that, not I. So I invite my colleagues opposite to question me and debate us on the substantive issues which are facing the country today.

I think Bill C-35, notwithstanding some of the items which are contained in it, are in fact technically correct, have good, consequential effects, but there are many what I have deemed to be sneaky little attacks, sneaky little points, sneaky little measures by a big, sneaky and stinky government.

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Madam Speaker, I could not let this sequence of Friday afternoon jousting go by without addressing—

An hon. member: Are you on debate?

Mr. Lee: On debate.

Mr. Cooper: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

I apologize to the hon. member.