

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised at the position the hon. member takes, if he cannot find out by himself how to define his functions here. I cannot tell him everything he has to do.

**Mr. Boulanger:** Mr. Speaker, I have another question to ask.

He is not very good at telling the truth—

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It seems to me that the question asked by the hon. member for Mercier may have been outside the bounds of relevancy. I will ask the hon. member who has the floor to continue his remarks and to keep them within the confines of the bill under consideration.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. member for Mercier to kindly ask his superiors, who have appointed him, to define his position, so that he might learn the nature of it.

Mr. Speaker, during his recent trip to Asia, our Prime Minister has once again played Santa Claus, for he has distributed loans to certain countries.

He will soon be telling Canadians—once again—that they must tighten their belts, and that they will have to make sacrifices. He will tell them: Tighten your belts so as to pay for the gifts that I have just distributed in Asiatic countries which, in turn, have given me very nice publicity as an international Superman.

I have no time, today, to give out the list of the interest free loans granted since 1968 to more than 50 countries, but I would like however to bring two of these to the attention of the House. During his recent trips, the Prime Minister has granted an interest free gift-loan of \$94 million to Ceylon, payable in 50 years. He has furthermore granted an interest free loan of \$4.5 million to Indonesia, payable in 50 years, with a 10 year period of grace, if that country so wishes.

● (4:30 p.m.)

The Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike—having received the gift-loan from the Prime Minister of Canada—paid all respects and gave all praises that might be delivered to a head of state.

It can't be helped: our Prime Minister is fond of reverences and compliments.

**Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker—

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Would the hon. member please resume his seat. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marceau:** Mr. Speaker, will my hon. friend allow me a question?

[Mr. Boulanger.]

**Mr. Rondeau:** I will not tolerate any questions.

**Mr. Marceau:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will not allow me to put a question. Would he be afraid of that question?

**Mr. Rondeau:** By no means.

**Mr. Marceau:** My question is this: Is my hon. friend aware that money loaned by Canada is used to buy machinery in Canada and that it is not an outright gift? Is he aware that such loans are used not only to develop countries but also to help this country? Is my hon. friend aware of these facts? If he were, would he still state that these loans which help both Canada and Ceylon are harmful?

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear the member for Lapointe make those remarks. I believe he learned about this matter recently, for we have known for quite some time that this money is used to buy Canadian products. This is even worse, Mr. Speaker.

If this money is used to buy Canadian products—and we have nothing against that—we do say that the same gifts that we offer to the Indonesians or the Cingalises should be given to the people of Quebec, of New Brunswick, of Nova Scotia, of the western provinces; Canadians should be entitled to the same interest-free loans for the purpose of buying Canadian products. This would benefit the economy and make it possible to raise the standard of living of Canadian people and it would also enable them to pay only once for the public services they use.

The hon. member for Lapointe approves of the fact that interest-free loans are granted to foreigners; if those same loans were granted to the Province of Quebec, we could build schools, CEGEPs, technical schools or help public developments through the construction of bridges, roads, including the East-West expressway in Montreal, and enable all Canadians to pay only once for those roads, those bridges and those schools.

**Mr. Guay (Lévis):** That is exactly what we are doing.

**Mr. Rondeau:** The hon. member for Lévis says: "That is exactly what we are doing". This is absolutely untrue. At present, the Quebec-Hydro—

**Mr. Guay (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Guay (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I said yes, and it is true. In fact, I have the means to prove it, as indeed it is all so well here in this House—