

**Mr. Blais:** Both this piece of legislation, Bill C-49, and Bill C-32, which has been long delayed, are essential for the distribution of wealth in this country and the proper administration—

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

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blais:** I can understand the silence on the part of hon. members from eastern Canada. I can understand that because it is detrimental to their own interests, to refuse to pass Bill C-32 and the provisions of this particular legislation. There is no question that it is because the revenue for transfer payments which are made to the eastern provinces and to other parts of Canada comes in part from the natural resources of this country.

Let no one be fooled about the effect of the resources and the amounts derived from them. The province of Ontario has nearly doubled its tax revenue in the past year as a result of resource taxation and royalties. The province of Alberta has salted away over \$2 billion this year as a result of royalties.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blais:** If I can shout loud enough I might run for the Tory Party leadership.

**Mr. Nowlan:** You had better run after the Prime Minister's plane.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blais:** That is probably the only way hon. members can distinguish me from the hon. member for Calgary South who, I am told, bears a remarkable resemblance to me—but only in appearance, Mr. Chairman. It has nothing to do with my own point of view and philosophy, I can guarantee that.

I am receiving a lot of assistance from the backbenchers on this side of House. We have been neglected as a result of the irresponsibility of hon. members opposite.

**The Chairman:** Is the hon. member for Calgary South rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Bawden:** A question of privilege, but I will withdraw it and let the hon. member continue, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Just on a very brief point of order, I thought when the hon. member for Nipissing began to speak that he was looking for a pair to cover the fact that he may be away a few days on a trip to the European countries.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nowlan:** But now, having listened to him for ten or fifteen minutes, I know that he will be able to participate in the debates even over in Europe, and we will be bound to hear him here.

The only question I wanted to ask the hon. member for Nipissing is whether this fillibuster continues due to the fact that the minister in charge of housing does not yet

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have his housing bill ready to proceed, or is it because hon. members on the government side have not yet shown up?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I really do not want to reflect on any hon. member, and certainly not on the last remark, but I think that the committee should consider the proceedings here this evening. I think hon. members should practise a little more what they preach and I hope that this debate will proceed in a more orderly manner so that the Chair can hear what is said.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Chairman, in view of the indication that the Chair is having a difficult time hearing me, I will try to speak up.

● (2050)

[*Translation*]

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Témiscamingue on a point of order or a question of privilege.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I have a lot of respect for the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais) but I think he is mistaken when he suggests the amendment involves people from Alberta only.

Yesterday I read in the House a telegram from my area in northwestern Quebec from Falconbridge mining asking me not to repeal clause 4 of Bill C-49 but to resume consideration after the forth coming meeting between the first ministers of Canada.

Mr. Chairman, I think mining companies in the area represented by the hon. member for Nipissing are exactly in the same case and are asking the federal government to take its time and to meet with the provinces before approving Bill C-49.

**The Chairman:** Order. The hon. member for Témiscamingue who was recognized on a point of order knows as I do that he could have contributed to the debate in a perhaps more effective way had he waited for the hon. member for Nipissing to complete his remarks. I think hon. members will agree with me that the committee is not making rapid progress tonight. We are hearing points of order and questions of privilege.

As I said earlier, it is not up to the Chair to limit or restrict the right to speak of hon. members but hon. members have as much responsibility as the Chair to ensure that the procedure we must follow and which governs our proceedings be respected, otherwise progress would be impossible.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Chairman, for the information of the hon. member for Témiscamingue I will say to him that there are no mines in the riding of Nipissing, but that is not why I took such a position. Indeed, several industries in my constituency rely on the mining industry.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that mining companies should be subjected to double taxation. Indeed, an agreement should be concluded between the provinces concerned and the federal government. I entirely agree about