

**Mr. Andre:** Well both, okay, a banking crisis and a parliamentary crisis.

**Mr. Deans:** Right.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, I have to agree with the latter part of that because for years and years he and I, on that side of the House—unfortunately I spent a lot of time over there, but not as much time as he is spending—spent our time fighting with the then Liberal Government to please allow Parliament to work, to please allow committees of Parliament to look into issues that came up from time to time. We fought and fought but that was not the practice of the Liberal Government. It was only in 1979, during the short Conservative Government, that we had freedom of information legislation. With the new Conservative Government, we now have committees that can set their own references. However, the pattern of Mr. MacEachen, the denizen of the other place, was to stonewall by keeping everything on the floor of the House of Commons where he knew full well that an issue could only last a few days then would disappear from the psyche of the angels up on high in the press gallery, and therefore the public.

That is not our pattern. There was a change of Government last year which the House Leader of the New Democratic Party apparently does not recognize. Right from the start the Minister of State for Finance (Mrs. McDougall)—

**Mr. Waddell:** It doesn't seem any different.

**Mr. Heap:** We can't see any difference.

**Mr. Andre:** —said that we want Parliament to look into the banking crisis of western institutions. We want Parliament to study why it happened and how it happened and to make recommendations on what can be done to ensure that it does not happen again. That was the position of the Minister of State for Finance and it is still her position. Several times in this House the Minister of State said that she would provide every bit of information that she is legally allowed to provide. The NDP say, "Stonewall, you are trying to cover up". We want Parliament to study all aspects and we will provide all the information that can legally be provided.

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That is not good enough. "We want you to provide information that is illegal. We want you to break the law. Furthermore, we are not going to let Parliament work. We are not going to let committees of Parliament meet until you agree to break the law and provide us the information that you are not allowed to provide by law." That is the position of the House Leader of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker. He says we have a parliamentary crisis. You are darn right we have, as long as we have Members like him espousing such absurdities as we have heard here tonight.

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The NDP Member says, "Do the people have a right to know?" The question answers itself. Of course they do. We believe the people have a right to know. That is why we have changed the rules of Parliament to allow committees to meet at any time. That is why the Minister of State for Finance said that we want a committee in this House to look into all aspects of this question. That is why she said that we will provide all the information we can legally provide because Parliament, in that proper forum of a committee, can look at and study the figures. The NDP says no. Why does the NDP say no, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Young:** Why?

**Mr. Althouse:** You won't find the answers.

**Mr. Andre:** You know and I know, Mr. Speaker, because the New Democratic Party is not interested in getting to the bottom of the matter. The New Democrats are not interested in doing good, honest work in committee. They want scandal.

**Mr. Althouse:** We want answers.

**Mr. Andre:** They want hints of impropriety. They want to try and create some evidence of wrongdoing—

**Mr. Axworthy:** We keep finding it every day. We find more and more.

**Mr. Andre:** —so the House Leader of the New Democratic Party can get red in the face in righteous indignation and say that he is concerned about the people.

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

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

**Mr. Axworthy:** Take a look at your own face.

**Mr. Andre:** Yes, the House Leader of the New Democratic Party says "I am defending the people. I am concerned about the taxpayer." What absurdity. If he and his colleagues in the New Democratic Party were responsible parliamentarians they would not have been stonewalling and preventing the Government House Leader from getting this committee established. That committee would be meeting tonight.

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

**Mr. Andre:** Instead we are sitting here tonight engaged in this debate where we are not getting at the facts. The New Democratic Party Member over there says he is interested in getting at the facts. But that committee could be sitting tonight looking at all the information. If Members of the New Democratic Party were responsible parliamentarians, which they are not, that is what we would be doing tonight.