

Government Orders

In other words California said: "We are going to make a judgment here. We are going to decide after looking at the entire operations—the company would have to open its books—how much the operations are paying in each one of the states". That led to double taxation.

The international multinational companies will not go to California because of that. California had to drop it but it is still a principle that is being promoted.

We should have more investigators in Canada. The hon. member and I agree on that. A lot of money is tied up here. There is \$10 billion, \$20 billion at stake. However, what has been done in Canada, which is probably the best system, is an agreement has been signed.

The investigators go after each one of the multinationals and sign a pre-agreement, an agreement in advance. It is a secret agreement, because one cannot go around telling everybody what one's operations are.

An agreement is made in advance. That has cut down on a lot of the violations in Canada. That is the reason why the office is so small. It is a very effective and well run office.

[Translation]

Mr. René Laurin (Joliette, BQ): Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member for Gander—Grands Falls has decided to turn himself into a member of the opposition, I would be delighted to invite him to cross the floor and join us. We have several other causes to defend against his party. We would be delighted to welcome you, Sir.

[English]

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. No thanks.

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the debating skills of the hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls are legendary in the House. They go back to his days in opposition.

We really had not experienced them until the debate on Bill S-9. Now we see his passion and his fervour. I wonder if the member would assure the House that he will back up this passion and fervour with deeds. Does he intend to vote against the government and against Bill S-9 when it comes forward for a third reading vote?

In other words, will he be in the House and will he vote against Bill S-9?

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member puts forward an interesting proposition. I think my friend behind me and to my left answered quite appropriately one day when he said: "If you vote against the government on a finance bill, it is a vote of no confidence in the government".

The assumption is made under our rules, that if one has no confidence in the government then that person must have

confidence in one of the opposition parties. Unfortunately with the positions taken by the opposition parties, I have less confidence in them than I have in the present Government of Canada.

• (1730)

Mr. Leon E. Benoit (Vegreville, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I too wish to congratulate the hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls on the eloquence of his speech. He is truly a fantastic speaker. He is interesting and fun to listen to.

The hon. member has spoken against the bill presented by his party. I congratulate him for that, for coming out and expressing his thoughts on the bill even though they are different from what his party endorses.

Will he be in the House to vote against the bill at third reading? Why did the hon. member not vote against the bill at second reading? The hon. member was here before the vote and chose not to be here during the vote.

How can he tolerate being a member of a party which is so anti-democratic that it will not let its own members vote the wishes of their constituents? The hon. member obviously believes he is representing the wishes of his constituents on this issue.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, I respect the hon. member's question. It is very interesting.

The hon. member will notice that in the last couple of days I have had a rather bad back. It is difficult sometimes to stand and to be seated. Hopefully my back will improve as the days go on.

However, I can tell the hon. member what I intend to do tomorrow. The only flight I can get to Newfoundland is early tomorrow morning and so I may have to miss the vote.

The Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: No.

The Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

Some hon. members: On division.

(Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.)