

The Minister of National Revenue, who is also President of the Privy Council and government House leader, when he realized his error, panicked at the thought that those forms might get into the hands of Canadians before Parliament had passed the legislation. So he now comes before us with the air of an offended virgin to urge us, almost imploringly, to support this motion for closure, because this is what it is.

● (1550)

It is therefore certainly not up to us in the opposition to rectify the mistakes of the government or confess to its ignorance. It has already been said that this is a new government, a student government. This is becoming increasingly obvious. The more it studies, the more the economy bogs down and the more Canada goes under, not only as concerns matters of economic administration, but also matters concerning oil supplies and so on.

The list is too long and too sad for me to go over it today, but it is obvious that with only 28 per cent of popular support, this government is finally realizing that it is in deep trouble. What is now suggested is a "rescue" or retreading operation. The government wants to make new tires out of old rubber. After less than six months of experience, the government has already exhausted its possibilities and is trying to blame the opposition for its inaction and irresponsibility. This goes beyond anything we could have imagined. Public opinion is justifiably confused.

I could quote many newspaper articles and many economists who are concerned about the persistence of the government to disregard public opinion and force Parliament to swallow whole a piece of legislation which has been badly cooked up, is indigestible, and will surely have unfavourable effects on the economy and the entire Canadian population for years to come. This is why, instead of simply criticizing this legislation, we have made concrete proposals to improve it.

The motion of closure moved today aims at preventing the official opposition from introducing constructive amendments to allow all Canadians to have a fair and equal share of public funds. The President of the Privy Council, the great reformer of parliamentary procedure, who just a few weeks ago tabled a white paper, is now hiding under the skirts of the Queen and under the cloak of power to try to muzzle the opposition and prevent it from fulfilling its duties towards the voters.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Revenue is in a delicate predicament and it is the President of the Privy Council who is trying to get him out of it! I have never seen such an ugly situation in my life because it is created by one man with the support of his government and the assent of his cabinet colleagues. Having lost all the rest, having lost face before the Canadian electorate, they are trying to save the rags, the pieces, the tatters of their election promises. It is nothing more than that, Mr. Speaker.

### *Time Allocation*

The Prime Minister does not even have faith in his Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie); he left the House this afternoon, he did not even want to stay here to listen to the king's fool entertaining his colleagues who are bringing down the House, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister went back to his office to shed tears over his disfavour with the public opinion expressed earlier this week. Never have we seen in the annals of the Parliament of Canada such a shameful behaviour as the behaviour of this Minister of Finance. Never have I seen anything like that. All we get is jokes. It is fair enough to make jokes about the opposition, about the former government, but not about the present economic situation; making fun out of that exemplifies the height of this government's incompetence.

**Mr. La Salle:** You were in power for 16 years.

**Mr. Corbin:** Mr. Speaker, it looks like the minister of patronage wants to say something. If that is the case, I will gladly sit down and give him my time. If he wants to do some patronage, let him do so and fast, and let him make sure that the Prime Minister who promised to extend an airport runway from 4,000 feet to 6,000 feet keeps his promise, and the sooner the better.

**Mr. La Salle:** I do not see that.

**Mr. Corbin:** Because that is about the only promise which so far has not been put to the test. After this one, that is the only one of his election promises left. At home, in the riding of Madawaska-Victoria—

**Mr. La Salle:** Why did you not do it yourself?

**Mr. Corbin:** Why did I not do it? I am going to tell the—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I would urge the hon. member to come back to the subject under discussion.

**Mr. Corbin:** With the unanimous consent of the House, Mr. Speaker, I could continue.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member has another minute if he wants to continue. I was simply pointing out to him that the issue he was debating has nothing to do with the motion under consideration. That is all.

**Mr. Corbin:** Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge your fairness and your objectivity as always. The supply and patronage minister was wondering why we did not build the 4,000 feet. We did so. At the time of the election, we were setting a mechanism to extend the runway to 6,000 feet. My government and the Prime Minister have promised to extend that runway, Mr. Speaker. Coming back to the motion—