

Government Organization

think even at this stage there should be a move made to postpone the discussion of this subject until he has returned. Today he is on an important mission and certainly we should not go ahead behind his back to make a determination of an amendment of which he knows nothing and which possibly he in his wisdom might decide is worth while.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Starr: They laugh because they know he has no wisdom.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I suggest that this portion of the bill be left over for further consideration. I should like to give an example of the kind of thing that is going on. I cannot understand the division of responsibility that is taking place. The hon. member for Kamloops mentioned divisions a moment ago. One of the finest examples is the shadow-boxing going on between the Minister of Finance and his predecessor. I recall one of Abraham Lincoln's sorties that I think illustrates the situation very well. He spoke at one time of two men, somewhat intoxicated—that does not apply—who got into a fight. Both were wearing overcoats. They fought for over an hour and when it was over each was wearing the other's coat.

As I thought of this example of unity within the ranks of the present government I could not help but recall Abraham Lincoln's story. We do not know what their stand is on the question of northern development. The Minister of National Revenue is fully conversant with these things, but in connection with northern development some questions have been asked of him regarding Mr. John Doyle and they have not been answered.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have the floor now.

Mr. Benson: On a question of personal privilege, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have the floor.

The Chairman: Order, please. The Minister of National Revenue on a point of order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, on what point does the hon. gentleman rise?

Mr. Benson: On a question of privilege. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition

indicated that questions have been asked of me with respect to northern development, which is really not the case. Perhaps he is referring to one question concerning an individual's personal tax affairs which was put on the order paper last Friday. I can assure him that it will be answered promptly.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Fine. Now we are making progress. We did get one answer in this connection which shows something about what is going on in these departments with regard to northern development. It is difficult to understand. The question was asked by the hon. member for Saskatoon and is recorded at page 5673 of *Hansard*:

1. Is the federal government aware of a press release of Canadian Javelin Limited concerning a \$35 million paved highway to connect Goose Bay with the Gulf of St. Lawrence and, if so, has the government announced its intention to build such a road?

2. Has the said road been approved by the government and (a) if so, when (b) if not, what is the present position of this project?

This question was answered by another minister, not the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources who has to do with northern development. The answer was:

1. The answer to both parts is no.

2. No such project has been approved by the government.

The answer was given by the Minister of Public Works. Mention was made by the hon. member for Saskatoon that he had certain information in this connection. The government has no knowledge of this great developmental plan that will help the Doyle interests, nothing of that kind whatsoever. I have before me a press release of Canadian Javelin Limited which deals with the question of development. We want to know what is behind this. The release describes the developments that are taking place. Mind you, a reputable company such as the one with which Mr. Doyle is connected would not be putting forth things that are not true because even in his present condition he is one of the worshippers of this government, one who, according to those who know, devoted himself in various ways to assuring that this government would actually be formed. This is what the press release says:

The federal government of Canada has announced its intention to immediately build a new \$35 million paved highway which is to connect Goose Bay on lake Melville with the gulf of St. Lawrence and the strait of Belle Isle. This highway will permit winter shipments from the proposed mill as it will provide access to a year-round port on the gulf of St. Lawrence. The new road will play an