

*Supply*

have tried their patience already much too far and you had better come with some guidelines pretty soon. We shall be vigilant.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I rise because I want to make some brief comments at this point in time with respect to the topics before us today.

It always amuses me to see the moral outrage demonstrated from time to time by the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party—

**Mr. Deans:** No moral outrage.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:**—who come forward with a vote on Friday afternoon, costing the people of Canada \$450,000 to have this discussion and this vote, which requires Members to come here from their constituencies on a Friday afternoon. Where are they, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Althouse:** Where are they paid to be?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** All we see is a corporal's guard on the part of the Opposition. They know they are on a phoney issue. They know that they should be talking about the real issues affecting the people of Canada. They should be talking about the fishermen, the farmers, and the working man. But what are they doing at this time? They indulge themselves in the worst slanderous, sleazy type of character assassination that we have seen in this Parliament for a long time. If this type of thing is carried on by the New Democratic Party and by the Liberal Party, the eyes of Canada will be on this Parliament.

Do you know what is going to happen, Mr. Speaker? These people will slide right out of sight in terms of political support. The people of Canada do not want their time wasted with this kind of discussion which somehow appeals to the base instincts of the people in the Opposition.

**Mr. Tobin:** You rang the bells for three weeks.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** They want constructive discussion on the real issues, the pocket-book issues, on how we can improve our society. People do not want to be listening to all sorts of allegations and a repetition of misstatements of facts.

• (1550)

A statement was made today in the House by the Leader of the New Democratic Party, and by a Member from Ottawa as well, suggesting that somehow we had made 1,200 patronage appointments.

**Mr. Deans:** I didn't say that.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** It was not you; it was the Leader of your Party.

**Mr. Deans:** He was not here today.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** The Leader of that Party suggested that we had made 1,200 patronage appointments. What are the facts? The fact is that we have made a total of something in excess of

500 Order in Council appointments. We are guilty of making those appointments.

**Mr. Deans:** That is in seven months.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** We made a number of appointments, included in that, which may have had the effect of promoting RCMP staff sergeants to inspectors. These were some of the Order in Council appointments included in that 500. We appointed C. M. Bud Drury. In fact, we appointed a number of judges included in that number, appointments which were approved by the Canadian Bar Association.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You fired Drury.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Are these patronage appointments? In terms of discretionary appointments since we were elected to office, we have made something in the vicinity of 350 of them. Listening to the Opposition, one would think that we spend noon, morning and night doing nothing but filling appointments and jobs. That is the opposite to the truth. That is being fraudulent. They are being unfair. They are attempting to raise false issues.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am just curious to know whether the Hon. Government House Leader is making a comment with regard to the speech or is making a speech. If he is making a speech, perhaps he could try to make it relevant to the motion before the House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) wish to answer?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** I was getting to the point, but I think I am entitled to make a brief comment with respect to this matter.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** In terms of the statements made—

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, this is the time for questions and comments. If the Government House Leader would like to make a speech, he should wait for his turn. I would like to have an opportunity to comment on the comments which are being raised. There is no such thing as a 10-minute question or comment, of which I know. Perhaps the Speaker could enlighten me.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member will have an opportunity to answer. The President of the Privy Council has the floor. I ask him to make his comments relevant to the speech of the Hon. Member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin).

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I know the Hon. Member was sitting silent, mute, as I recall it, on the government side before the last election when the Liberal Government was wallowing in terms of patronage. In terms of the special recovery fund, it was a crass and absolute distribution of public funds to the constituencies of government Members. Where was the Hon. Member then? Where was his outrage at