

*Income Tax Act*

for this time, and each candidate were entitled to two mailings and a specified number of radio and television appearances, there would be equality for all candidates in elections in Canada. This is the view I put forward.

I am strenuously opposed to this resolution. I think it is a wrong step in the wrong direction, and I do not think it would redound to the credit of Canada.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, when my hon. friend drew his conclusions I wonder whether he would tell us whether he read the motion. It says—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** Order.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member has completely misconstrued my remarks. As a matter of fact, he was making an argument in support of them.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** Order, please. When the debate on this matter is concluded I think the hon. member will have his opportunity to reply. If he wishes to reply at that time he may make any remarks he likes.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is abnormal for any political party to have to spend considerable sums of money during an election. There should definitely be certain limits set to stop much extravagant spending. We, on this side of the house, are well aware of the fact as, during the last election, we actually suffered much from that extravagant spending, from those large sums of money spent all over Canada, including money from the United States. Consequently, I think that the government should take a stand in this respect, in order that we may have truly democratic elections, and that money be not an item influencing the popular vote. Indeed, the people should be free to vote according to their conscience, and that is why I believe in the necessity of enacting significant reforms at the earliest possible opportunity. I know that the government may refuse to take such action, because it probably feels guilty about the action it took during the last election.

When we consider the attitude of certain political organizers, like Mr. Keith Davey, for instance, who held out the considerable advantages of an election fund and what have you, we cannot but deplore the fact that there should be, in our democratic system, a party with so much power, with so much money that democracy is affected. For this reason, I believe that the government

should take action to stop certain political organizers from resorting to blackmail and influencing Canadian public opinion with money, as we were able to see during the last election.

Mr. Speaker, it is abnormal for money to come even from the United States, because when they elect a government of their choice, the Americans are able, afterwards, to try and control the Canadian economy, and I feel that it would be in the public interest that legislation be introduced as soon as possible, so that money will not be a cause of influence during election campaigns, that we may have really democratic elections, and that the people may judge candidates on their value, according to the platform of their party, and that they may not be influenced by the money which is distributed generously, as happened during the last election campaign.

**Mr. M. J. Moreau (York-Scarborough):** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member allow me a question?

**Mr. Pigeon:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Moreau:** Can the hon. member tell us why he did not introduce this reform when his party was in office?

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, we did not make that reform because we did not have the money to do it. We had no money at all during the election campaign.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, one has only to check the number of hours that this government used on television, throughout the country, over the national television networks, and one will see that it cost the Liberal government at least three quarters of a million dollars, and that only for one television station.

[*Text*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** Order. I think the debate is now going beyond the bounds of the resolution before the house.

**Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, in entering this debate may I say I cannot find myself exactly in agreement with the mover of the motion, and I join with another hon. member on this side of the house who did not express entirely the same views as those put forward by the mover of the motion. I consider that quite a few of the objections raised were valid. Today gifts for charitable purposes are deductible under the Income Tax Act. When we