

Government Monetary Policy

from San Diego, California—it is stated that most of our aircraft workers who went there still recall the anniversary of Black Friday.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): Order. I think I have allowed the hon. member to get into a discussion of the aviation business quite far. Perhaps he should now come back to the subject.

Mr. McMillan: I will try to return to a discussion of the economic situation in this country.

After listening to the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) the other day I really felt that the great northern vision had disappeared or became a fleeting mirage.

The people have lost confidence in our government—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): Is the hon. member for Yukon rising on a point of privilege?

Mr. Nielsen: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the hon. member from Welland intended to refer to me when he did. I think he must have mistaken me for someone else.

Mr. Chevrier: What is your point of privilege?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): Could the hon. member tell me what the point of privilege is?

Mr. Nielsen: The hon. member from Welland referred to something attributed to me which I did not say.

Mr. Chevrier: It is on the record.

Mr. McMillan: Because of the fiscal policy, people have lost confidence in this government which has promised to do much but has done little. If the government would only say what it means, and mean what it says, there might be some return of the confidence required for a healthy economy in this country. If the government would say less about its politics and would remove itself from indecision we would all have less to criticize it for, and would not have to ask then, Mr. Speaker, are they men or are they mice.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has just sat down said he would answer a question when he was finished. I should like to ask that question now. Is it true that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson), all through the 1958 election campaign and just recently, said that in order to cure unemployment in Canada he would finance on a deficit budget?

Mr. McMillan: That is right, but those opposite seem to forget that if you spend perhaps \$600 million or \$800 million to stimulate

[Mr. McMillan.]

the economy the returns from increased income tax and increased sales tax would offset the deficit to a considerable extent.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Acadia): It is customary on a supply motion for the official opposition to move an amendment and to state that the country has gone to pot, and that they no longer have confidence, like the people of Canada, in the government. This is, as I mentioned, a customary motion, and it is the official opposition's duty to choose the subject for debate. Naturally one expects the official opposition to choose the most important subject at the time the supply motion is brought before the house. They have chosen monetary and fiscal policies, as I understand it.

We have now dealt with just about everything in respect of monetary and fiscal policies as well as anything else that can be tied in with them.

I came to this house perhaps a little naive in respect of management by government, the duties of the official opposition and so on, but have always been willing to work, and have listened to a great many subjects. The official opposition has made very determined efforts to speak on unemployment and to give us suggestions as to what should be done. I have had a great deal of difficulty in deciding when the official opposition is serious and when it is actually only making political comments. The previous speaker suggested that this government forget absolutely everything political and get down to business. I would suggest that this would be good reasoning for the official opposition to follow.

I have listened on a number of occasions to discussions in respect of this unemployment situation but have failed to comprehend any concrete solution that the opposition have put forward in regard to this problem. They suggested at one time that the government should get labour and management together. When the government announced that they were going to set up a national productivity council, the official opposition spoke against the measure, yet the council's main work would be discussions with management and labour in regard to creating greater production and thereby greater employment.

We have heard the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) speak today about tight money—money loaned out since this government took office—in comparison to the policy of the previous government. He did not mention any figures or go into any great detail concerning what we should be doing which we are not now doing. He did not suggest that we had not lent more money than the previous government because he knows full well that we have. He must realize that we have made money available to small towns.