

Government Orders

constituency were sending money its way? Or, did it balance it through frugal control of its expenditures?

I would suggest to you, Madam Speaker, that the way he should answer that is: "We balanced our budget because Ontario sent us all kinds of money, not because we controlled our expenditures." I would ask the hon. member to answer that question.

Mr. McGuire: Madam Speaker, we appreciate every dollar that Ontario sends to Prince Edward Island, because it is well spent and the people there really appreciate it.

I want to ask him: How would he feel if the auto industry in southern Ontario closed down at the same time as CFB Summerside closed down? That devastated our economy.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Madam Speaker, I was distracted by the brilliant intervention in the debate by my friend from the riding of Ontario in the province of Ontario who, when he is not making insightful remarks in this House, is out busily mailing cheques to charity cases like P.E.I. and Newfoundland, if you were to take him seriously.

First, let us get something straight around here.

Mrs. Finestone: You can't expect them to get it straight.

Mr. Simmons: The gentleman from Calgary Southeast feels a speech coming on. Does he want to do it first and make history with his maiden speech and the whole works?

I am saying to his colleague from the riding of Ontario that he does himself, his constituency, his province and the country no justice at all when he gets on about that nonsense about how he is bailing everybody out down in P.E.I., and so on.

We have a thing in this country called Established Program Financing. We have a thing in this country called sharing. We have a thing in this country called a federal system. How much longer it is going to last with the way his crowd are botching it is another question. But we have a system, and we have a number of equal units called provinces, not so many basket cases and then

so many provinces who can call the shots because they are paying so many of the bills.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, why the riding of Ontario and the province of Ontario should be giving blood money to P.E.I. and Newfoundland. I can only talk for Newfoundland, and I suspect my colleague from Egmont can be equally lucid in terms of why it is so in P.E.I. As far as Newfoundland is concerned, in 1949 we paid a price for joining Canada. We are proud Canadians. I and my friend from Bonavista—Trinity—Conception, I believe, are the only two people in the Chamber these days—together with my good friend from Port aux Basques, one of the pages, Corey Crewe, working in the Chamber right now—and my other colleagues from Newfoundland, of course, Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte, Labrador and Gander, Grand Falls. I think we are the only people who frequent the Chamber these days. Do not let me forget my bosom pal from St. John's West and my good friend from St. John's East. In that group, save the page who is too young to have been around in 1949, we are the only people in the Chamber who deliberately chose Canada. Either we, or our parents for us, in a ballot chose Canada so we are here by choice and we are proud to be here.

• (1820)

With that preamble, let us call spades spades. Part of the price we paid in 1949 for joining Canada, to protect the manufacturing sector in Ontario and Quebec, was to sacrifice our fairly vibrant manufacturing sector in a number of areas. Yes, we will take the blood money any day at all and make no apologies for it.

I say to the member from the riding of Ontario that it is a small price to pay for what they did to our manufacturing industry, our fish processing industry, and our salt fish industry in 1948-49. If he wants to debate that issue and brag about the largesse of his pocket-book in mailing a few pittances down to the poor people in the basket case that he wants to call P.E.I., we will set him straight on that any time.

I remind him that in the great riding of Ontario he has a number of constituents who chose Canada and who had the good fortune and good sense to be born in Newfoundland. If he does not know where they are, I will show him a few thousand because he has several thousands. He would do well not to put his foot so far down his throat as he has today ever again. Never again.