

concluded there was only the official and one poor victim left—and it was his office that was being used for the meeting. The businessman did not know why he was there, nor did the official. What a waste of the taxpayers' money.

I think it is necessary to reinforce the comments of the hon. member for Okanagan-Kootenay (Mr. Johnston), Mr. Speaker. I remember being in this House when members of the government hooted and jeered at the announcement that the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek) had been appointed "critic of nothing"—because there was nothing in the way of small business on the other side. The same thing happened when it was announced that a Conservative had been appointed critic of fitness and amateur sport. They said, "We do not have any fitness or amateur sport." Of course, all we were doing was planting an idea with the government—as we frequently do—which they subsequently acted upon.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Can you say that with a straight face?

**Mr. Brisco:** I have no difficulty saying it with a straight face, Mr. Speaker. I think I am more conversant with the fact than is the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne). I was present in the House on that occasion.

I also recall that the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley, our critic for small business travelled this country from shore to shore. He spoke with small businessmen in a variety of communities across Canada including the home of our present minister, the city of Castlegar, winding up this tour examining the concerns of small business at a business conference in Washington, D.C. This has been alluded to before in the House, and I do it in part in jest. The present Minister of State (Small Business) preceded his tour with a trip to Russia, hopefully not to examine small business there. That joke has been used before and I will not inflict it upon the minister again.

● (1500)

There is one other frustration of small business of which I am sure the minister is aware, that is, the enormous weight of municipal, provincial and federal legislation inflicted upon these people at every level of government and involving half a dozen departments or ministries. It is going to involve Revenue. It may involve Industry, Trade and Commerce. It will in all likelihood involve the Ministry of Small Business and may well involve the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald). Depending upon the product being introduced, it may well involve the Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Forestry. We are faced with a vast gamut of federal responsibility.

Not too long ago a constituent forwarded me a form from StatsCan. It involved a fellow in my constituency who had one small tugboat and was moving a few booms around. They wanted a report on how much diesel oil he consumed, how many employees he had, how much overtime there was, and on and on ad infinitum and ad nauseam. In order to fill out the form he required the services of a chartered accountant. That

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is how much detailed information was requested. He said, "Why the hell should I pay for a chartered accountant—"

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Hey, hey, Ray Hnatyshyn will fix you!

**Mr. Brisco:** Oh no, he won't.

He said, "Why should I have to pay for a chartered accountant in order to get this information for StatsCan? If they want it badly enough, let them send out their own chartered accountant to do the job."

**Mr. Forrestall:** You should know that he is quoting a frustrated businessman and not himself using an expletive.

**Mr. Brisco:** I thank the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) for his interjection.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** It takes two of them over there to make one speech.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** And if you had ten, you still would not understand it.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) has the floor. If other members wish to participate in the debate, they should address their remarks to the Chair at the proper time.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brisco:** Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate your intervention and interjection. It was most timely. The real reason why there is a failure to address the Chair is that members opposite fear that the quality of their interjections is such that they would not be recognized by the Chair.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** The Chairman would.

**Mr. Brisco:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I am having difficulty putting up with the inane comments of the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi. If he can contain himself long enough, I would be pleased to assist him privately in his education. Clearly he is lacking in knowledge and needs some help. I will help him after I conclude my address.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** It is a point of principle.

**Mr. Gilbert:** He has lost his principles.

**Mr. Brisco:** He never had any.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member would not want to leave on the record the statement he just made. He is not that kind of member who wishes to reflect on the integrity of other people. I am sure that he would rather withdraw the remark he just made and leave it there.