

### *Restraint of Government Expenditures*

Those people do not have a large association to do their bartering and bargaining for them, to plead their case; and I think the hon. member for Northwest Territories did an excellent job this evening of putting that point of view forward.

I just wanted to bring a bit of balance to the discussion, Mr. Speaker. More of these points can be brought out in committee. I know that the manufacturers, the industry and sales people would welcome this kind of discussion in committee because it might give a lot of fresh air to a discussion of the matter and allow both sides of the picture to be brought out.

I have a great deal of sympathy and feeling for the hon. member's plea on behalf of animals. I much prefer to go to the zoo. I am not a hunter or a trapper myself. I have not shot a gun for years, and I much prefer to see wildlife on film or through the lens of a camera than I do through the sights of a rifle. But let me just say this to bring a little balance to the discussion. I am glad that the subject matter can go to committee and not the bill itself.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion (Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich)) as amended, agreed to.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Accordingly, the subject matter of the bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES RESTRAINT ACT

AMENDMENT TO REMOVE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS RESPECTING TRAINING ALLOWANCE RATES

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andras that Bill C-19, to amend or repeal certain statutes to enable restraint of government expenditures, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

**Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina):** Mr. Speaker, as one who enters this debate after it has gone on for some time I am sure

[Mr. Young.]

part of what I have to say will be repetitive. In my opinion, however, it bears repeating. Let us hope that some of these comments will not fall on deaf ears.

I read with interest the speeches in respect of Bill C-19. I wish to comment on two of them. My good friend, the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski), gave an excellent speech on government mismanagement. Some of his remarks are worth repeating. His comments in this House are always well researched and I wish to commend him on his valued contribution to this debate.

This is not a genuine government restraint bill. In the areas where it proposes to exercise restraint the result will probably be much more costly in terms of the human and financial resources of this country. My good friend, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), also commented that this bill does not contain very much so far as restraint is concerned. He was right. Governments are notorious for not practising what they preach. But the gall of a federal government which preaches, and indeed forces, restraint on everybody but itself is becoming truly indefensible.

The latest example of the "do as I say not as I do" theory is in the supplementary spending estimates announced by the federal government, together with suggestions of what the year's total federal outlay will be. The recently announced estimates total \$594 million, which prompted the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) to gloat that they were significantly lower than in previous years. This, he said, reflects the government's determination to restrain the growth of federal expenditures, an integral part of the anti-inflation program.

In the next breath, and before rejoicing could take place at such a marvellous example of belt tightening, the President of the Treasury Board estimated that federal expenditures this year may total \$42.2 billion, \$6 billion more than the year before. That implies that another \$2 billion supplementary spending is still to come, and that total federal spending for 1976-77 will have risen by an astounding 16 per cent. This is what we have from a government which has been urging restraint on business and industry, which has been cutting back wage increases to 10 per cent or less, and which has legislated a reduction in profits; a government so committed to restraint that it managed to keep the watchdog of it all, the Anti-Inflation Board, down to a budget merely double the original one.

It would not have been so had had the supplementary estimates included a large amount for programs desired to relieve the crippling high unemployment rate; but they do not. Of the \$594 million only about 15 per cent will go for manpower programs such as local initiatives and training schemes. Much of the remainder will go for vital undertakings such as a \$25 million loan to Jamaica, \$63 million in subsidies to railway companies, and \$33 million for further bilingualism development payments!

The government may find it impossible to hold the confidence and the attention of Canadians the next time it preaches restraint but practises wild over-spending. What we on this