

Supply

Mr. Simmons: Then they came up with this simplistic device today—a motherhood motion, a Trojan horse, a weak, transparent attempt once more to mislead the people of the country. There they are, all seven, eight or nine of them over there—eight and a half anyway—who have dragged themselves into the House this afternoon to support this great crusade for purity once again! I want them to know that they do not have the market cornered on purity. I tell them that the last thing the House needs right now is another academic exercise. I would like to get on with the business of the House. Why do we not do that?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Questions, answers and comments. Is the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) rising upon questions and answers during the ten-minute exchange?

Mr. Blaikie: No, to make a speech, Mr. Speaker. There is no one else rising.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Chair will wait a moment to determine if there are others rising on questions and answers.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Who wants to ask him a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I am not sure which Hon. Member made the comment, but I would think that the House vests the requirement in the Chair that it is its responsibility to determine whether or not there are questions and answers during the ten-minute period. I certainly do not mind advice, but I would like any Hon. Member who seeks to advise the chair to have the courtesy to rise and do so on his feet. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, am I being recognized for debate, for the purpose of—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): My apologies. I think I now see the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary on the questions and answers section.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) just a moment ago and I must say as a—

Mr. Blenkarn: What is the question?

Mr. Tobin: I will put my question, but I will make the same kind of preface as do Hon. Members opposite. I will make a quick comment. As a first-time elected Member of Parliament, one who came here with great expectations and one who was taught immediately that I was part of a—and I am not talking in a partisan sense, but in the sense of service to the country—very unique club. By that I do not mean this caucus; I mean the House. I must say that I found my bubble has not been burst, but it has been a discouraging experience for me these last weeks to see the kind of practice and approach which has

been exercised opposite by Members, who as my Hon. colleague and friend from Newfoundland so aptly put it, are in the business of kneecapping rather than in the business of representing the needs, the concerns and the voice of the people of Canada in the House.

Some Hon. Members: What is the question?

Mr. Tobin: Sometimes one must yell to be heard. I understood that I would be allowed a comment first. Am I allowed a comment? May I carry on?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I want to remind all Hon. Members that it is not an issue of whether there is a question, answer, debate or comment. The new reformed procedures of the House of Commons refer to "short and sharp questions, answers and comments". My concern in the chair is not as to whether it is identified as a question, a comment or an answer, but rather that it be short and sharp. A good indication of short and sharp would be taken as 90 seconds.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I am looking at the clock and trying to gauge it. With these new rules we need a second-hand on the clock. It is very difficult to see 90 seconds from here.

My question is quite a serious one which I put to the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons). I ask him, because, obviously he has taken a great deal of time and a great deal of sincerity in looking at the motion put today, whether he can even conceive of one positive thing being accomplished by it. The Hon. Member has a reputation of having a balanced view; he is one of those individuals who will always explore in great depth every side of an issue, so I know he has looked hard at this motion—45 seconds and counting, Mr. Speaker. Can he conceive of one positive thing being accomplished by having this kind of motion accepted by the House?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Yes or no?

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, there is no question that there is a positive side of this particular motion. I was remiss, really, in making my remarks to the House and not pointing out what is the positive side of this motion. Clearly the positive side of it is that it allows the people of Canada to see the Opposition for what it is. I believe this afternoon that anyone who has watched this particular debate with all the rhetoric of Members of the Opposition—and I must exclude my good friend, the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West because he gave what was a courageous speech and dissociated himself from the motion in many ways; he is the only one I heard doing that—will see the charade which the Conservative Opposition is carrying on. If we serve that purpose, at least we spent some worth-while time this afternoon.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill on a point of order.

Mr. Blaikie: No, I am rising to participate in the debate, Mr. Speaker, but it is obvious the Government does not intend