

We could offer an election and that will solve the problem. I wonder if he understands, and even the Prime Minister understands, what democracy is? Democracy relates directly to popularity which means enjoying the confidence of the people. This government does not enjoy the confidence of the people. It is four years into its mandate and it is time to go to the polls before it destroys anything else.

There was a beautiful line put forward by the member: "I look forward to campaigning against these people when they stand up and we would rather be right and unpopular". My God, they are truly unpopular, but the only problem is they are not right either. When one does not enjoy the confidence of the people then one is wrong by definition. The majority of people in this country do not want that trade agreement. They do not want the North American trade agreement. They do not want high interest rates. They do not want the dollar so high. They want to get rid of the GST. They want a municipal infrastructure system and they want a fair tax system.

This government has failed to deliver all of these which have been constructive suggestions from this side of the House. The government has been a fiasco. Its operating principle comes from when the Prime Minister stood up and said: "I would rather be right than popular". Damn it, Mr. Speaker, he ain't right and he ain't popular.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Vincent: Mr. Speaker, certainly I wish to reply to my colleague. He says the people did not want free trade. I would like to remind him that in 1988 we were elected on that very platform. My colleague says there is no minimum tax for companies. I must remind him that it is just not so; companies are subject to a minimum tax. He also says there is no minimum tax for individuals. I must also remind him that there is a minimum income tax for individuals; therefore, everybody in Canada, companies and individuals, must pay their fair share of taxes.

My colleague says it is abnormal and undemocratic to be so unpopular. A politician's mandate is to be elected in order to administer his country. We were democratically elected and we are managing the country; some of our measures do not necessarily please everyone. Mr.

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Speaker, a strong politician must do whatever is best for the good of the country and that is part of democracy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I will state, in answer to my colleague saying he was eager to campaign against us, that I am eager to see how the New Democratic Party does in Trois-Rivières. All I wish is that this time they round up enough players for a game of rummy.

[*English*]

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to speak on this bill at second reading. I stated then what a silly piece of legislation it was. I am of course convinced that statement was true then and it is still true today.

[*Translation*]

I am surprised by the remarks of the hon. member who just spoke because I believe the bill to be great fraud. It is simply a document prepared for the next election campaign. It is very appropriate for the Conservative Party for there is not one ounce of sensibility.

[*English*]

It is a ridiculous bill, Mr. Speaker, and I invite you and the Solicitor General, who I know is very attentive to speeches in this House, to consider what this bill can be used for. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, if you were a person with a debt. You have a bank account. Your banker is deducting your monthly payments from the bank account. Suppose you go to the banker and say: "I can set up a special account at your bank, open a new account and deposit all my pension income into that account. Out of that account I would like you to pay the interest payments on my debt and in fact, retire the debt out of this special account that I am going to create". The banker says: "Yes, that sounds like a great idea. It is a duplicate set of bank charges, but no problem, we'll set up the account for you and you put your pension cheques into the account and we'll deduct the payments from it".

Suppose, Mr. Speaker, your payments are \$1,000 a month. You open this account and you know \$1,000 is going to go out to the banker every month. But suppose that you do not tell the banker in advance that your pension cheques are only \$250 a month. Clearly there is not enough then in the account to pay the \$750 balance that is owing to the bank every month. What will the banker do? He will take it out of your original account, the big one. You will not notice. He will just keep taking