

[Translation]

Senator Flynn: Well, there are all sorts of plots. Political plots like those I am talking about are not very serious. During most of your political life, I am sure you have plotted with various individuals during election campaigns to pull the wool over people's eyes. I do not see anything wrong with that.

[English]

Senator Davey: Do I remain, in Senator Flynn's view, an honourable senator?

Senator Flynn: Oh, sure.

Senator Davey: Thank you.

Senator Flynn: I can assure him that, in my view, he has not changed a bit since I first met him.

Senator Davey: I am happy to pay Senator Flynn the same compliment.

Senator Argue: Both youthful.

[Translation]

Senator Flynn: Undoubtedly, when they got together in committee, they thought of delaying the passage of this bill to create a diversion. I find it amusing when Senator Gigantès claims that it is the government, not the opposition, which is creating the diversion. He probably knows the story of the boy who was pulling a cat's tail and, when ordered to stop, claimed that he was not to blame, that the cat was doing all the pulling. That is Senator Gigantès' position.

[English]

Senator Gigantès: Honourable senators, I rise on a question of privilege.

Senator Flynn: Again?

Senator Gigantès: Honourable senators, I am a lover of animals. I have never pulled a cat's tail at any time. I want this clearly understood.

[Translation]

I also wish Senator Flynn would admit he was saying that as a figure of speech and that he did not mean to say I mistreat animals.

Senator Flynn: Don't worry. I won't call the Humane Society.

So my point is there is no justification for the argument based on the tabling date of the main estimates. If we were to agree with the lengthy and I would even say boring argument set forth by Senator Stewart, it would boil down to a full and absolute censure of the opposition in the House of Commons.

You would be telling your Liberal colleagues in the Commons and the NDP members that they did not do their job, that they voted without knowing what they were doing. That is exactly what you are saying today. If you accuse us, you accuse your Liberal colleagues and the NDP members. After all, when they decided to adopt this bill, after a compromise was reached, they knew what was involved, or at least they should have known. Is it the job of the non-elected members of

Parliament to tell them what kind of precautions they should take? Do you realize what kind of situation you are creating for Mr. Turner and your Liberal colleagues by saying they did not know what they were doing on December 21? That they were imprudent and abandoned their principles, their basic principles, as Senator Stewart has been repeating *ad nauseam*? They adopted the bill unanimously. And that is a fact.

I realize that it takes time for newly appointed senators, to quote Lise Bissonnette, it takes time for Senator Stewart, Senator Sinclair, Senator Gigantès, to learn all the subtleties of Parliament. However, it is very dangerous to go along with an argument like the one proposed by the Leader of the Opposition without having had a chance to think about it or to understand what is involved, and then recite the kind of platitudes you have been repeating all afternoon. That is incredible. You swallow that and at the same time you want to teach your colleagues in the other place a lesson. Senator Guay, you know perfectly well that members, as far as borrowing authority bills are concerned—

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay: Excuse me. I was only saying that Senator Phillips was indulging in a lot of rhetoric. I apologize for commenting while you have the floor.

Senator Flynn: That's all right. I have no objection.

Senator Guay: I did not want to interrupt because I was trying to listen.

Senator Flynn: No, I understand. In fact, I did not expect to be able to explain everything to the honourable senators. I am perfectly aware of this because there are some people who will never be able to understand.

Senator Guay: I find this quite possible to believe when I look at the other side.

Senator Flynn: It is quite possible. Moreover, there is no need to draw you a picture to tell you who I have in mind at this time.

Senator Guay: Me neither; but the problem is that we do not see you as often.

Senator Flynn: Then, Senator MacEachen told us: "We have not been informed." This is not true. You already have the information, and Tuesday, you will have the estimates. You will be willing to pass the bill the next day. Come on. This is nonsense. Who are you kidding when you say that you will be better informed on Tuesday than today? No one will take you seriously. I challenge you to find someone who will.

Now, you are telling us: "Come to a compromise; be nice and accept what we are asking for. Table the estimates and we shall vote for the bill." It is a whim. In the last year, the Senate has seen every one of its vacancies filled with supporters of a government which had lost the confidence of the people. Now the Conservative government has been given a clear and definite mandate by the people in September. If, everytime instead of acting responsibly you were to use your numbers and if we had to give in to all your whims, the government could no longer operate. You know quite well that you cannot expect that. I think that Senator MacEachen will