

from western Canada to the federal coffers. He used western Canada as a cash cow. That is what we have been used for in Alberta. The Liberals talk about their new-found awareness of western Canada. The Liberal Party has just had a convention. They talked about addressing the regional needs of Canada. But there is no Member on the Liberal national executive from Manitoba, no Member from Alberta, and no Member from Atlantic Canada. That is a real national party. I say it takes a lot of gall for Liberals to pose as the experts on western Canada.

Mr. Mulroney: No wonder there is only one Liberal in the House.

Mr. Mazankowski: No wonder there is only one Liberal in the House. The Liberals ran this country for 20 years and ran it into the ground.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am listening to my delightful colleague's presentation and enjoying most of it. I just want to bring to his attention that he referred to the lack of presence of Members in the House of Commons which he knows, as we all know, is inappropriate during a speech. Regardless of all the ohs and ahs, we look to leadership from the Government House Leader. I ask him to continue as we always do.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, the point is well taken. I was not referring to any specific Member. I will repeat once again: There is one Liberal Member and one New Democratic Party Member in the House, and that should be on the record.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I presume that the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) is coming back to the same point of order to the effect that the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) is referring to the presence of absence of Members.

Mr. Riis: I am also going to serve notice—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I understand that the Deputy Prime Minister did not refer to the specific absence of a specific Member.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I believe by your observation, and we will examine *Hansard* tomorrow, that the Deputy Prime Minister did not refer to any specific Member but did, in fact, indicate there was only a specific Member in the House of Commons. By implication that means there are no others, that there were no other New Democrats and no other Liberals. I want to serve notice that I will be raising this matter as a question of privilege.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong this point because I want to hear the Hon. Member's speech. By and large it was a good speech. He is the Government House Leader. It is he to whom we look for leadership and guidance, and I ask him to give it.

Supply

Mr. Mazankowski: You will certainly get that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I want to take strong objection to the point made because I am here.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: The point that I think we all want to make is that there has to be a certain amount of give and take and a certain amount of sincerity. There are now two Liberals and two New Democrats in the Chamber.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McCurdy: We double every 10 minutes. Watch yourself.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, I am not the one to lecture the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), but if the Deputy Prime Minister is to start that ball game, he knows me well enough to know that, being here as I am five days a week at any time, I can start counting. It is a game that is very bad for the spirit of the House. May I kindly ask the Deputy Prime Minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, to stop referring to how many Members are here at a particular time. There are plenty of Members having coffee in the lobby.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Prud'homme: It is not the Minister's style of debating. We will be lowering the style of debating in the House by counting Members. He knows that we will be here for at least two more years and there will be plenty of occasions when this could backfire. I wish that the Minister would proceed with debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will resume debate with the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski).

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I always appreciate the interventions of the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Prud'homme), particularly his lecture. This is an important debate and I think it should command the presence of a lot of Hon. Members.

Mr. Riis: Maybe it is a reflection of what we think of your speech.

Mr. Mazankowski: I suspect that if it were not for Members on the Conservative side we would probably have difficulty maintaining a quorum.

Mr. Riis: Maybe it is what you are saying, Don.

Mr. Mazankowski: I think it should be put in that context because the Hon. Member who introduced the motion had a perfectly legitimate reason for doing it. We are happy to debate the issue and are happy to set the record straight.