

Government Orders

I would like to express one way that you can tell the difference. The hon. member for Ottawa South said that he was surprised that the NDP discussions have been bereft of any positive ideas that had any substance to add to this bill or to the discussion today. The difference between him and myself is that I am not the least bit surprised. This is something I think people from across the country are going to become more and more used to.

The discussion has referred to the International Monetary Fund many times today and the World Bank has also come into it. I wonder if the hon. members in the NDP understand the difference between the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and a food bank.

• (1440)

I hope they would not go to a food bank asking for a mortgage or financing for one of their businesses, or any economic development.

For the information of those members, we have different kinds of banks for different functions. When it comes to trying to help the developing countries to develop their economies in the most positive and effective manner as possible, the International Monetary Fund has done an outstanding job.

I am really confused by what the members from the New Democratic Party are saying. I have to draw the conclusion that they feel that the International Monetary Fund is not doing an effective job and I assume they are prepared to withdraw their support from it.

I really ask the hon. member who has just spoken: does he not feel that the best thing that we can do, especially in these developing countries, is to try to provide them with the economy and the sustenance they require to provide the long-range economic support that the people of those countries need?

I guess the simplest way of saying it is we all know the best social program is a job. In that respect, I do not see any difference between the Third World countries and Canada. Providing all kinds of assistance, although very necessary and very noble does not necessarily go very far in providing them with a good economy that provides jobs.

The International Monetary Fund does that, and I would hope that the hon. member would support that.

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to allude to my good friend's comments on the number of food banks, and the difference between food banks and other banks.

I think we should put it into perspective, relative to my criticisms of this government. Right now in Canada there are more food banks than there are McDonald's restaurants. That is really a hallmark of the success of the Tory policy.

It was this government that bailed out the Canadian Commercial Bank to the tune of \$800 million, while the food banks continue. The hon. member has the nerve to stand up and talk about giving jobs so people can self-sustain.

The government pays off the banks when they go broke. Eight hundred million dollars. People out there in food banks went bankrupt. What is the government doing for them, giving them another hill of beans and promises?

Because of the wisdom of my comments, I call a quorum. There are not enough people in here.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will count the members present.

And the count having been taken:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I now see a quorum.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, if I could point out to the House that the member who was speaking has demonstrated his blindness twice already today. Maybe he would like to try for three. He cannot even see the quorum when it exists.

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, I take the admonition from the member for Calgary West, and I realize that the Liberals saved the Tories again.

If anybody wants proof of a coalition, just watch the Liberals come in and save the government again. There is the evidence, but far be it from me to make a political comment in a Chamber like this.

If we bring politics into this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, there will be no holds barred, so I will refrain from making any political observation about the Liberals saving the Tories again. But could I say that, I would have.

I want to continue my remarks on questions raised by my good friend, the member for Cariboo. He wanted to make the analogy, as he said, about the various institutions that are available for loaning money. One of the institutions that I pointed out that exist in this country to