

*Supply*

Member for Mississauga South has just said, for the record, that he is for finger-pointing.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** At you.

**Mr. Simmons:** He is for looking for skeletons in closets and is for dragging them out in public. He is for conjuring up wrongdoings.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Tell us where they broke the guidelines, you muckraker.

**Mr. Simmons:** If the Hon. Member for Mississauga South does not agree with me, then I am pleased. The day I say things that he agrees with I will be in deep, deep trouble.

My good friend from Saskatoon West gave what I thought was a rather good speech. Although I do not agree with many of the points he made, I listened with interest to what he had to say. He said that this is not a partisan issue for him. That is the calibre of man that makes this House worth-while. Even behind a hideous motion such as this there are people like him who are prepared to divorce themselves from finger-pointing and skeleton-hunting. He is prepared to say what really is on his mind. I think it took great courage for the Hon. Member to divorce himself from the despicable intent of the motion.

For the record, he said that he was not for a partisan approach to this particular subject. Where was he during the past month or so when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nielsen) was doing exactly that? In very partisan fashion he was off on another of his search and destroy missions. That Hon. Member had few qualms about whether the issue was going to be partisan or not. Once again we find that the Tory Party embraces so many different points of view—those who are for something and those who are against something, those who like finger-pointing and those who do not. It is a great Party. I would not want to belong to it, though.

**Mr. Lewis:** No chance!

**Mr. Simmons:** They can hold the invitation, Mr. Speaker. I am not going over there. They can hold their breath.

I say to the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West that his professed naivete on this motion does him no credit at all. While he spoke from a sincere heart saying that he did not want the partisan approach, he should realize that he is surrounded by a bunch of professional with-hunters. They have spent so much time in opposition that they are not comfortable unless they are calling others names or impugning the reputation of someone. As long as they can make charges and use innuendo or invective, they never let the facts stand in the way of an accusation.

We are spending another whole day on this when thousands of Canadians are looking to us to address the job situation in the country. But the Tories are playing the same old, tired game. They are hallucinating again about skeletons in closets. Such hallucinating, such spiteful daydreaming, such clumsy plotting does nothing about the real problems in the country. There are the problems of the unemployed, the problems of housing needs, the problems of poverty, and they are passing

up the opportunity to do something about these things. Their priorities are as badly mixed up today as they were in Winnipeg. They would rather hunt skeletons than solutions.

The old lynch-mob approach to politics and to life went out a long time ago in this country—except for the Tory Party. There it is alive and well, as the Hon. Member for Yellowhead must know. Because they have practised dissecting people in their own Party, is that justification enough for the country as a whole to be subjected to the same kind of despicable performance day in and day out? Do they have an over-all objective? Is there something that motivates them other than hate? Is there something that keeps them ticking, other than a passion to destroy or drag people's reputation in the mud? Do they all get their jollies from contriving some new and warped way to destroy innocent people?

• (1730)

**Mr. Lewis:** Name one.

**Mr. Simmons:** Name one what? Name one person who gets his jollies from impugning reputations? The Hon. Member for Mississauga South is one.

**An Hon. Member:** Joe Clark.

**Mr. Simmons:** I could name others. Is he talking about victims or assailants?

I realized that this would be a very sensitive subject for the Tories. I realized that they did not expect the people of Canada to see through the device of a very simplistic, motherhood, butter-melt-in-your-mouth type of motion or resolution which says, "let us have another committee, let us look at conflict of interest guidelines, let us see how they apply to Ministers and to public servants". Mr. Speaker, you have to take off your hat to the kneecapper, the Hon. Member for Yukon. He was able to restrain himself for a sufficient period of time to craft that fun-loving motion, but we know him too well. We have seen too often his performance in this particular House. It is always the same. If you understand the real intent of this motion, Mr. Speaker, you have to see it as a Trojan horse and you have to realize that the Hon. Member for Yukon was just proceeding to the next step in his ever vicious campaign, a campaign which he carried on in Question Period for the last few weeks while ignoring the problems of the country.

There was not a question for a week and a half in Question Period, for an hour a day, day in and day out, week after week, about a single item of concern—about the poor, the unemployed or the elderly of the country; about the economic situation generally. There was not a whit of concern because he was on a witch-hunt. Now somebody has said to him in caucus one day, "You had better package it differently. You are looking too transparent." People are beginning to say to us Tories as we go back to our ridings, "When will you get back on the problems of the economy?"

**Mr. Blenkarn:** That is not what they are saying.