

Oral Questions

Quebecers as well as all other Canadians". It is reported in *Le Devoir*:

[Translation]

Mr. Campeau, in his arguments, is acting more like an irrational alarmist, instead of being logically persuasive.

[English]

Those are only two of the opinions, Mr. Speaker. May I add that within the Leader of the Official Opposition's own caucus there is considerable support for Bill S-31.

I would like to indicate that a Conservative Member, the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall), said in 1977:

Good laws should be applied to the interprovincial and international movement of goods and passengers. This is necessary for the sake of the industry as a whole and the proper and good order of the development of the movement of passengers and goods interprovincially and internationally... The intent of the Bill is clear. It is a good one and one we are prepared to let pass.

Those comments were made by one of the members of the Conservative caucus.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last supplementary.

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW BILL TO DIE IN SENATE

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is having some trouble with this problem, the Chairman of the Liberal caucus is not—

[English]

Given the genius of the Quebec Liberal Party for solving difficult problems, we have heard this morning that the Quebec Liberal caucus will recommend that this thorny matter be submitted to the Macdonald Royal Commission for resolution. Now, there is a stroke of genius for you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Did the chairman of the Quebec Liberal caucus charge \$800 a day for that opinion?

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, we just want to know whether the Minister intends to withdraw her Bill, yes or no? This Bill is becoming increasingly obsolete, and we would like to know whether the Minister, considering the objections to the Bill voiced by Liberal Members, intends to let the Bill die on the Senate Order Paper.

[English]

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated to the Leader of the Official Opposition how I think events will unfold. However, I would like to reassure him that the future of Bill S-31, or similar legislation, is still a principle to which the Government adheres. I would suggest to him that he wait until

the new Session begins to see when and if a version of Bill S-31 is introduced.

[Translation]

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I am pleased to see that the other side can still generate enthusiasm for something, because after the general retreat we have witnessed here in the House, there is certainly no great enthusiasm for this Bill.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1425)

[English]

ENFORCEMENT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION'S PROVISIONS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has just admitted the political collapse of Bill S-31. I would like to ask some questions about legality and propriety. Will the Minister confirm that, even though this Bill has not been received or approved by the House of Commons of Canada, it is already being enforced as the law of Canada? If that is the case, will she tell us on what authority she is enforcing a law which the House of Commons of Canada has not received, let alone approved?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the second hitter. There has been no attempt to enforce this Bill but we will, of course, be getting legal opinions.

PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I have a letter signed by the predecessor of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which is addressed to Canavia Transit Inc. indicating, and I quote: "However, I feel that an exemption to the Corporate Shareholding Limitation Act", that is Bill S-31, "—would be inappropriate and in many ways unnecessary." In other words, the Government is acting on a Bill which has not been received here in the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, this is a dramatic breach of the practices of this Parliament. It is objectionable enough that budget measures should be administered before they are approved by the House of Commons, but at least budget measures must be introduced in this House. This Bill was not even introduced in the House of Commons. It was introduced in the Senate of Canada. This is an entirely new dimension in the breach of the privileges of this Parliament.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): On what authority is the Government of Canada entering into this brand new breach of the rules of Parliament? Will the Minister give us her undertaking