

*Senate and House of Commons Act*

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to address the Bill itself and never mind his politics. Let us have some explanation of what is in the Bill.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, would it be fair to ask a page to bring a copy of the Bill to my colleague?

**Mr. Gauthier:** Explain it.

**Mr. Lewis:** The Bill reduces salaries of Members of Parliament by \$1,000 a year.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Make your comments relevant.

**Mr. Lewis:** Let us talk about relevant things. We understand why the Liberals do not want to hear about interest rates coming down or about unemployment levels coming down. They were never able to accomplish that when they were in office. I can understand their concern. It is a moment of great embarrassment to the Liberals to have those facts trotted out. They could never explain 19 per cent interest rates or 13 per cent unemployment or the great differences between Lalonde's projections and his actual deficits. There were never any explanations. Now they want explanations. They are entitled to an explanation of the reason that unemployment has decreased.

**Mr. Gauthier:** We do not need an explanation.

**Mr. Lewis:** This is a personal thing and I know the Liberals are taking it personally and I want to get personal on this. I understand their concern, Mr. Speaker.

Let us talk about poverty. There are 300,000 fewer lower income Canadians in 1985 than there were in 1984. The reason we are cutting our salaries is to show people that we are serious about deficit reduction. The Hon. Member opposite lives in a house. I want to talk to him about housing starts. The Liberals lost two Ministers over housing start problems. Housing starts are up by 61 per cent since September, 1984.

The number of small businesses which have started up are up by 11 per cent since last year. Then we come to tourism which is up by 17 per cent. According to the Conference Board, consumer confidence is at its highest level in 21 years and at its second highest level on record. That is an economic record of which to be proud, Mr. Speaker. When we have a reduction in the salaries paid to cabinet Ministers and when the Prime Minister takes a reduction in salary, we are telling Canadians that this Parliament and this Government are serious about reducing expenditures. For that reason we are asking all Members to participate in this sacrifice of \$1,000 a year in income.

I close my remarks by urging my colleagues opposite, who were prolific spenders when in office, to join us in supporting this worthwhile Bill and to vote for it.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, let me make a preamble to my remarks by saying that I have never heard so much nonsense in so little time since I have been in the House of Commons to hear a Member of Parliament lead us to believe that there has actually been a decrease in salary for cabinet Ministers. First, that is factually inaccurate and wrong. Second, to tell us that that has cured the malaise of the nation and that in the Member's view that is why the Government is doing well is grossly inaccurate.

I will continue my remarks on this topic at the appropriate time when the Bill is brought back before the House. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, that those kinds of inaccurate comments cannot go on unchallenged and Members should speak in this House in such a way as to reflect roughly what is the truth.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until eleven o'clock tomorrow morning, pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.