

The Budget

NAYS

Members

Anderson	Andre
Atkinson	Bernier
Bertrand	Blais
Blenkarn	Bosley
Bouchard (Roberval)	Bourgault
Cadieux	Campbell (Vancouver Centre)
Cardiff	Casey
Champagne (Champlain)	Charest
Chartrand	Clark (Yellowhead)
Clark (Brandon—Souris)	Clifford
Cole	Collins
Cook	Cooper
Corbeil	Crosby (Halifax West)
Della Noce	Dick
Dobbie	Domm
Dorin	Duplessis
Edwards	Fee
Ferland	Fontaine
Friesen	Gibeau
Greene	Halliday
Harvey (Chicoutimi)	Hawkes
Hicks	Hogue
Holtmann	Horner
Horning	Hudon
Hughes	Jacques
James	Joncas
Jourdenais	Kempling
Landry	Larrivée
Layton	Leblanc (Longueuil)
Lewis	Littlechild
MacDonald (Rosedale)	MacDougall (Timiskaming)
MacKay	Malone
Marin	Martin (Lincoln)
Mayer	Mazankowski
McDermid	McKnight
McLean	Merrithew
Moore	Mulroney
Oberle	O'Kurley
Plourde	Pronovost
Redway	Reimer
Ricard	Richardson
Robitaille	Roy-Arcelin
Saint-Julien	Schneider
Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth)	Siddon
Tardif	Thompson
Thorkelson	Tremblay (Rosemont)
Tremblay (Québec—Est)	Tremblay (Lotbinière)
Valcourt	Van de Walle
Venne	Vézina
Vien	Weiner
White	Wilbee
Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia)	
Wilson (Etobicoke Centre)—104	

• (1810)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment to the amendment lost. The hon. member for Beaver River is rising on a point of order.

Miss Grey: Mr. Speaker, I would just like it to be on the record that I am in the Chamber at present and am choosing to abstain on this motion.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cooper: Our rules are very clear, Mr. Speaker. We come into Parliament to vote either yea or nay. We do not come in to abstain.

That is clearly out of order.

Mrs. Catterall: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the intervention of the hon. member who just spoke. However, I think that he is either mistaken or he is not living by the same rules he is now quoting.

I recall a vote not six hours ago in which he and all the members of the government party sat and did not vote on a motion that was before the House.

Perhaps the Speaker could clarify what the rules are.

• (1815)

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I also rise on this point of order. There is no such thing as an abstention in the House of Commons. All it means is that the hon. member who was just up bragging about not voting was not here. There is no such thing as an abstention.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I want to rise on a point of order to indicate that I was in the House of Commons. As the people of Alberta expect me to do, I was here voting, not hiding out.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I think members from all sides of the House will be aware that members from time to time are in their places and choose to abstain. If that is wrong, perhaps the matter should be referred to the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges, Procedure and Private Members' Business. Until such time as that happens any member is free to vote or not vote if and whenever he or she wishes to do so.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order because I think there is an important matter here that the House does need to consider.

First, there is the question as to whether or not there is such a thing as an abstention. Our rules do not provide for that.

More important, we have also over a period of time engaged in the practice of attempting to explain votes, to say how we would vote if we were in the House when we arrive late for votes. I think that these matters ought to be undertaken because Parliament has been the place where we come to stand up to be counted. The parliamentary system is set up for a vote that is either yes, you are for it or no, you are against it.