

Control of Government Expenditures

point out to him that the Chair has to time speeches and, at the same time, take into account interjections and points of order which have the effect of extending the time allocated to the parliamentary secretary.

If hon. members want to rise, as they are entitled to do, to make numerous points of order and interrupt the member who has the floor, by so doing they extend the time which the Chair has to allocate to the latter. This is precisely what is happening right now. The parliamentary secretary has the floor.

[*English*]

Mr. Jerome: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel I should point out in passing that in the period between eight o'clock and ten o'clock tonight eight speakers have had the floor, only two of whom have been from the government side. In that sense it is difficult to accuse government speakers, the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Clermont) and myself, of occupying too much time.

An hon. Member: You do it more than anyone else.

Mr. Jerome: I did not interrupt the hon. member and I wish he would accord me the same privilege. In any event, hon. members opposite will be happy to know that I am very near the end of my remarks.

Some hon. Members: Hurrah!

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, the last step that has been taken in respect of assisting hon. members of the opposition to carry out a careful examination of the estimates has been that which was implemented two days ago on an experimental basis for this month. I refer to the new system we are trying out of scheduling committees so as to reduce as much as possible the problem of members who sit on more than one committee.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

I say it is the duty of the Chair to respect the time allowed members of the opposition, who have the same privileges as government members when it comes to expressing their views in this House.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has been speaking for 20 minutes, while no member of the opposition parties was allowed more than 15 minutes, including the time used up by interruptions; I ask the Chair to act impartially in this House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: The hon. member should resume his seat!

Mr. Valade: You should pipe down!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I am sure the hon. member did not want to criticize the Chair or the way in which it presides over the deliberations; destroying or criticizing the Chair cannot help this institution, I am sure. If hon. members will co-operate and allow the parliamentary secretary to finish his remarks, the Chair can give at least five minutes to the hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

Order. In view of the exchange that has just taken place, I doubt that the hon. member should ask the Chair to extend his time. Even then, he would probably not get unanimous consent, and this can only be done if unanimous consent is given by the House.

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for recognizing, at last, that the opposition can have a few minutes at its disposal.

We are supposed to be in a just society; yet, we notice, once again, that through its vociferations, the government tries to silence the opposition, to keep it from expressing the views it has the right to express by virtue of the mandate given by its electors.

Some government members have chided me for being absent from the House; yet, I am present more often than the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

Mr. Speaker, as I have only a few minutes left, because since it has been in office the present government has been restricting our interventions through closure, I will only deal with one aspect of the motion now under consideration, that is the mismanagement and waste of the present government.

Since I did not make any preliminary comment, I would like to say that I would entirely approve some aspects of the local initiatives program if they were carried out so as to really lessen the burden of unemployment which is a scourge now raging in Canada. However, as I must be brief, I would like to expose in this House the uses made in some quarters of the local initiatives program.

I would like, for example, to mention an amount of \$11,665 which, in the constituency of Saint-Marie, under the pretext of reducing under-employment, was paid to the president of the federal Liberal association of that constituency, for a project under which description of the task to fulfill is as follows: 5 jobs created. Information of the public through films is also anticipated. So, we are right in wondering whether the government is going to keep on wasting millions of dollars of the taxpayers money and this, not only in order to alleviate the burden of unemployment in Canada, but also to prepare an election campaign whose results it does not seem to expect for its policy over the past four years has been one of *laissez faire*, a policy of indifference toward the workers who have been plagued by unemployment since the Liberals have been in office.

Mr. Speaker, not only did the liberal government ignore the reasons why millions of dollars were entrusted to it by the Canadian taxpayers but, furthermore, if one is to believe the article I am holding, it seems—even though my friends opposite do not agree with the opinions expressed in the newspaper *Défi* of March 10, 1972—that in the constituency of the Secretary of State, who is responsible for the administration of these programs, an amount of \$450,000 was awarded for local initiative projects solely for political purposes and only in order to restore some prestige to the Secretary of State who is becoming increasingly a liability for the Liberal Party and for the general public.

Mr. Speaker, I should have liked to go into more detail. I believe my friend, the former Quebec *Créditiste* member turned Liberal who commends this waste, when he was a