

Government Orders

How about the Steinberg family, the Kofflers who founded Shoppers Drug Mart, or the Billes family who founded Canadian Tire?

An hon. member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Simmons: They are a tender lot this morning, but I would be tender too 24 hours after seeing my last hope go down the drain. I would be tender too. I would be verbose as well.

Mr. Blenkarn: You are verbose.

• (1155)

Mr. Simmons: I do not think I could be as verbose as the member for Mississauga South, but I would be verbose if I had the legs knocked out from under me yesterday with the resignation of my leader.

Mr. Blenkarn: How are they affected?

Mr. Simmons: The member for Mississauga South asks how. Well, let us have a look at it. I think he knows the answer.

Mr. Blenkarn: Tell me how the trust works?

Mr. Simmons: No, I am not going to take the time to tell the House.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I will be delighted to recognize the hon. member for Mississauga South the next time around. I think that a conversation across the aisle is not the way that debates are done in this place.

Mr. Simmons: I thank Madam Speaker for her protection. I am a coward.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I think the hon. member really needed it.

Mr. Simmons: I am a coward, I am absolutely shaking in my shoes as a result of the thundering verbal attacks from the gentleman from Mississauga South.

No, I do not know nearly as much about those family trusts as he does, so I am going to leave it to him to tell this House why the Steinbergs are out there waiting for this amendment. I am going to leave that to him. That is something he knows a lot more about than I do. I will concede that to him at any moment of the day.

Unlike him I was not sent here to plead the cause of the Steinbergs and the others I have mentioned. I was not sent here to plead their particular cause. They can

look after themselves nicely, thank you. I am here to plead the cause of the people who that member wants to pummel under the other bill they rammed through here yesterday, Bill C-113. They are people who under the changes to unemployment insurance will never get to be a Steinberg because this government, whoever leads it, will keep them under its thumb, aided and abetted by the right wing of the party as epitomized by the gentleman from Mississauga South.

I am not surprised that he yelps, screams and bawls this morning. We are used to that. However, it is useful. It is instructive to ask why he is doing it this morning. Why is he so aroused this morning, as opposed to other mornings? Why is he aroused at all so early in the morning?

What has changed since yesterday, since we heard the resignation of the gentleman's leader. Has the GST suddenly been cancelled? Is that all behind us now? Is that gone? Is that exorcised from the landscape? How about the 325,000 manufacturing jobs we have lost since that man became leader? Have they all been restored? Have we undone all the pain of the 200,000 personal and corporate bankruptcies? That must be a really amusing thing for the member for Mississauga South. There have been 200,000 corporate and personal bankruptcies since 1989. Have we undone all that pain? Is that all water under the bridge now?

No, today is very much as it was yesterday. Today the country is in the grip of a government that foists this kind of legislation on the people of Canada, that says that after 21 years these people need to buy another few years, maybe another 60 or 70 years until all their offspring are deceased. That is why the Bronfmans, the Steinbergs, the Billes, the Kofflers, and the Beaverbrooks are facing some fairly troubling money decisions these days. They will not have many difficult decisions to make if this government rams through the bill.

With the new dawn we are part of now, with the leader about to step down over there, maybe we will have some new twinges of conscience. Maybe there will be some second thoughts on that side of the House about Bill C-92 and Bill C-113. Those are the twin bills that cater to the rich and sock it to the poor. Maybe there will be some changes of heart over there.