

Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Unfortunately, the Hon. Member's time has expired. Are there questions or comments?

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis). He has indicated to the House today his deep knowledge of the Patent Act. His elocution, I think, is admired by all of us as well as his depth of knowledge and his ability to convey very complex issues in a very straightforward and understandable manner. I think the House has been well advised by the manner of the Hon. Member's approach.

I think that is in keeping with his reputation in the House of not only being a very fine constituency person, but also someone who understands all aspects of the House. He is truly a man of the House of Commons. We on this side of the House are pleased that he is the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council. It is unfortunate that comments were made by Hon. Members across the way about the extra money he receives as Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Deans: Why is he pointing this out to everyone?

Mr. Epp (Provencher): It should be pointed out to the Liberals that it should be more because of the fine work he has been doing. I think most Hon. Members would understand that that is a recommendation which would find much favour on this side of the House if Liberal Members would care to move it, something which I am quite sure they will consider most seriously.

● (1700)

The point on which I would like the Hon. Member to elaborate is the entrepreneurial spirit. We want to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit and there are many Canadians who we believe are waiting for that change and happily have adjusted to it. For example, if we were to take a look at the growth rate over the last year, we would find that Canada has had a good year. Canada has seen growth rates only comparable—

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Questions or comments directed to the Hon. Member are, I believe, what are in order and I would ask that the Minister be called to order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) is correct. I would ask the Minister to comment or ask a question on the excellent speech made by the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis).

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for pointing this out. For those of us who were Members of the House at the time and not in Queen's Park, I think we will recall that when the 10-minute rule came into effect, it was for two purposes: for questions and for comments.

Ms. Copps: Relating to the speech.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Precisely, and that is what we are doing. It is important for Hon. Members to know that and I am pleased that you have pointed that out, Mr. Speaker.

I was saying, before I was so rudely interrupted although I am becoming almost used to it from that Hon. Member, that—

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I realize that the Tories are having their Christmas party today and I realize that it probably started early. However, given that the Minister who is making these comments and allegations is the person who is about to bring in a cut-back on family allowances, it would seem to me that the House should be moving on to the important business and should cut out this garbage which is being viewed by the taxpayers as an absolute waste of money.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a quite separate point of order and I think it is in fact a point of order. My recollection of the 10-minute question and comment period provision is that it was for the purpose either of putting a question or of making a brief comment and that it was intended that the 10 minutes would be shared among a number of Members from both sides of the House. Knowing that the Hon. Minister of Health (Mr. Epp) is always fair minded, I would simply ask him if he could perhaps draw his question to a close reasonably quickly in order that other Hon. Members might have an opportunity to take part.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that intervention and it was again of the calibre that we have come to expect from the Hon. Member who made that contribution here in the House. However—

Mr. Deans: Will you cut it short? That's all I want to know.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): I was talking about the entrepreneurial spirit and the growth. There have been more than 400,000 new jobs created. The bank rate is down 3 per cent. The unemployment rate is down 1.2 per cent. Retail confidence is up. Canada has had a good year. That being the case, perhaps the Hon. Member could expand on unleashing even further this entrepreneurial spirit.

I was made aware of a case of a gentleman who works for the railways and had observed during a prairie winter the concern—

Mr. Robichaud: He's not working any more, he's been laid off.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): No, no, the concern about the—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Minister. Could I ask the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) to answer, please?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity. The Minister was talking about unleashing the entrepreneurial spirit that has taken hold since we took office. He spoke of the 416,000 jobs we created as against the piddling number of jobs