

Borrowing Authority

interest rates were raised so high in order to squeeze inflation out in the economy that the economy was zapped. That policy is called monetarism. We have monetarist policies in Canada as well as in the United States and the United Kingdom. As a result of this policy there have been 600,000 jobs lost in the last year and a half. That is a real tragedy.

Mr. Harquail: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Waddell: I wish the Hon. Member would sit down and let me finish my speech. He can ask me questions afterwards.

Mr. Harquail: I have a question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway has the floor. I suggest that the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail) seek the floor at the end of the speech or at some other appropriate moment if he has a question of privilege. The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

Mr. Harquail: Those are the rules, Mr. Speaker. A question of privilege has to be heard if a question of privilege is requested. I request that you hear it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Restigouche.

Mr. Harquail: That is the rule. Mr. Speaker, I would refer you to the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee, specifically Issue No. 7 which clearly states that the Chair should give priority during the ten-minute question period to Members representing Parties other than that of the Member who has just spoken. It states: "Your committee recommends and emphasizes that it sees these ten-minute periods as being used for questions and answers and critical exchanges."

I regret very much to have been drawn into this, except for the fact that you just stated, Mr. Speaker, with great respect, that three Members of the NDP had held the floor for those ten minutes and we were on this side of the House. The previous speaker was the Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson). This is the very point we are having difficulty with.

I would only conclude, in begging your indulgence for a favourable decision on this, that you should not assume when a Member is going to stand up. You cannot know if a Member is going to stand. I submit that you will never be able to anticipate whether I am going to stand up or not. However, when I do stand, I do request that I be given the same fair consideration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would the Hon. Member resume his seat. If the Hon. Member had a question of privilege, it should have been raised at that moment. He should not wait and then interrupt another Hon. Member's speech at a later point in the proceedings.

If there is a question about the order, the Chair has scrupulously attempted to observe a fair distribution of questions in the ten-minute period. The Chair noted at one particular point that only Members of one Party in the Opposition were rising.

The Chair looked and did not see any Members on the Government side. The Chair did see the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fisher) and recognized him at the appropriate time. When the Parliamentary Secretary rose, the Member for Restigouche may or may not have attempted to rise. He had not risen previously.

It was the discretion of the Chair to recognize the Member who caught the Speaker's eye. With all due respect to the Hon. Member, there is no question of privilege and there is no point of order. The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway has the floor.

Mr. Harquail: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Waddell: I wish the Member would settle down. I say in good faith that I know there is a lot of tension in the House. I am trying to make—

Mr. Harquail: I do not need the Hon. Member's help. You are one of the smart guys around here. You have the reputation of having the mouth and being the smart guy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I ask the Hon. Member for Restigouche to resume his seat. The Chair has recognized the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

Mr. Harquail: You are just a smart guy. Don't try to tell me.

Mr. Waddell: That is disgraceful.

Mr. Harquail: You talk about the eight-minute tape.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the Hon. Member observe the decorum of the House of Commons.

Mr. Harquail: I always do.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to analyze what I thought were some of the problems with respect to the Government's present approach to this terrible recession we are in. I was making the point that I thought that the Government's spending priorities were wrong. The Government has, in fact, cut back on social programs through its six and five program. This six and five program is making those people who can least afford it fight the battle. It is the wrong battle. In other words, pensioners, women, children and retired civil servants, retired RCMP and so on, are forced to receive less money than they would normally receive from the Government. This is happening at a time when the Government should be putting more money into their pockets, which would cause them to spend more and would stimulate our economy. The main fight is not against inflation, and I think anyone would recognize that if they looked around. The main fight now is against unemployment.

● (1500)

Let us not have a Government policy, namely the six and five policy, which is mainly meant to fight inflation, because it is using the wrong people to fight it. The Government has also