

Supply

company. Civil servants will be working there. There is \$200 million of government spending which is not going to show up in the estimates, and it is not going to look like government spending.

Bill C-20, which deals with northern land use regulations, contains a clause requiring companies to contribute to an environmental protection fund. The moneys involved will never go through consolidated revenue and will never show up as government spending, yet, in fact, they are a tax to the company. If honesty were the mode of operation they should be reflected in the government spending estimates to indicate that the money was being spent in this way.

It is in these ways that this government deceives the people of Canada. Any apologist for the system who says public opinion is a check on government extravagance simply does not realize that in fact the public cannot have an opinion about something they have no information on.

I am sorry the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is not here this evening, as I should like to give a further example of deception. He went out to Edmonton on a campaign trip paid for by the people of Canada and while there made a speech. This is reported in the Ottawa *Citizen* of March 14, under the heading "The Trudeau & Co. Shell Game", and begins as follows:

Someone is lying—Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, his advisers, or Statistics Canada.

It goes on to demonstrate the flimflammy of our Prime Minister, his abuse of fact, his willingness to distort, twist, misuse and deceive the Canadian public in the interests of electioneering.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: The article ends as follows:

But it should be informative to discover whether you can fool most of the people all of the time.

With that kind of leadership, is it any wonder that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, when electioneering at public expense in Lloydminster, should make a statement that led to headlines like this—

Mrs. Holt: There is nothing in that front row.

Mr. Andre: There is the bionic mouth, Mr. Speaker. The headline said that the minister claimed a P.C. victory may jeopardize the heavy oil plant. If it were half parliamentary, Mr. Speaker, I would say that is a damn lie, but I cannot say that because it is not parliamentary. It sure as heck is not the truth. We voted for Bill C-19 on second reading. If that incompetent minister had paid a little attention the bill would have been through committee weeks ago.

● (2042)

While on the subject, we have a tradition here of not criticizing officials and bureaucrats and not attacking them because they cannot defend themselves. We are supposed to direct our concerns to the responsible minister. I understand

[Mr. Andre.]

and appreciate that. In turn, Mr. Speaker, the requirement is officials not get involved in the political process. Therefore, I was more than a little upset to hear from four different delegations which had been to see officials of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Certain senior officials in that department had told these individuals that the hon. member for Calgary Centre was making unreasonable demands and delaying that bill. Mr. Speaker, let me indicate that if those officials want to get involved in politics, they should be told to get out and run, otherwise keep their mouths shut.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: The third level of defence of this sham of a system is that the public at elections can indicate their concerns about government, that we can hold government responsible at election time. How do you do that? The Prime Minister has had 150 ministerial changes. Who the blazes are you to hold responsible? What postmaster general can we hold responsible for the fact that during the period 1969 to 1977 the amount of mail went up 17.9 per cent but the number of post office employees went up 42.7 per cent? All that is the magic effect of automation. The figures show almost 18 per cent more mail and 43 per cent more employees, and they do not work. What postmaster general are we supposed to hold responsible for that, Mr. Speaker? That is what I would like to know.

Can the people trust what this government says? This is the government that has said, no, no, to price and income controls. They said they would not work, and they would never do it. Then they introduced them a year later. This is a government led by a man who said he would wrestle inflation to the ground. He wrestled inflation to the ground, this great tiger. This is a government led by a man who said that separatism is dead. This is a man who at the last election promised \$250 million to help remove railways from downtown urban centres. The list goes on and on. This is a man, this is a government, this is a party which has deceived the Canadian people repeatedly.

The strategy is very clear. They do not think the public is very bright. They think the public will accept whatever lies they are told right now. They will have a whole new batch and a whole new image and a new haircut and they will go to the people and the people will forget about all these lies from the past and believe them from now on. I do not think the Canadian people are that dumb and I do not think that will happen. I think hon. members on the other side are in for a surprise. The people of Canada must realize that we no longer have parliamentary democracy in this country. They must not be deluded into thinking that we in parliament can hold this government responsible, that there are really checks and balances.

As my leader pointed out the other night, if the Americans had this system Senator Sam Irvin would have had to ask Richard Nixon's permission to study Watergate. What do you think of the chances of that happening, Mr. Speaker, in the