

Certainly the government used Governor General's warrants under the Financial Administration Act to draw down on its line of credit in American funds in support of the dollar through the Bank of Canada. Governments have done that before; they will do it again. There is nothing wrong with that. That is why it is there. But to say that a delay in the passage of Bill C-11 somehow impacts on the world's interlocked money markets is nonsense. It is absolute, utter balderdash.

Senator Murray: That is not what the minister says.

Senator Sinclair: It is a contention that was brought forward in an attempt to mislead, and for no other reason, in my judgment.

Honourable senators, we have a duty in the Senate to rely upon principle and to correct mistakes, however made. I think it is wise that we do so in a way that allows the government to save face in the matter. That is important. It seems to be important to the government, in any event.

This is why we are in session this week discussing this measure. I suggest that we even work in the evening so that we can take a good look at these estimates and the total program. We can try to accommodate the government by working long hours.

Senator Phillips: You are not going to pass this bill without looking at the estimates?

Senator Sinclair: I certainly hope that where there are departures from the estimates in the future, there will be explanations demanded. And they will change. Once we see the estimates and they are there in stone, we can refer to them and require explanations in the future as to any changes.

● (1620)

I urge honourable senators—

Senator Flynn: May I put a question to the honourable senator? Are you suggesting that we should delay the passage of this bill until the Senate or its committee has had an opportunity to look all through the estimates? Is that what you are suggesting?

Senator Sinclair: No. I am suggesting that, once the main estimates are tabled and in our hands, that we will expedite our look at those estimates. Then, as they proceed through the House of Commons, if those estimates are altered, explanations can be demanded—

Senator Flynn: But you said that you would pass the bill; that is what you said.

Senator Sinclair: Yes, we will pass the bill, as has been said, next week, after the estimates have been given to us and we have had an opportunity to look at them.

Senator Flynn: The Senate has always proceeded in that way. That is nothing new. Perhaps you do not understand how it works.

Senator Sinclair: I do not know whether I can quite hear what my honourable friend is saying, but if what I have just

[Senator Sinclair.]

reiterated is what has always been done, then why are you not doing it this time?

In any event, I think that is the proper way to proceed. I am sorry that the Leader of the Government in the Senate feels that my questions to him from time to time are improper. I do hope that he understands that when a government produces the full spending program, it is not necessary to have the other side in order to make a decision. Thank you, honourable senators.

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, since the beginning of the year I have been attempting to find some logic in the irresponsible and reprehensible action of the Liberal senators in dealing with Bill C-11. Unfortunately, their action has been devoid of logic, reason and conscience. They still continue in the old ways of placing the Liberal Party above the welfare of Canadian taxpayers.

Today, I thought we would get some reasonable explanation from the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. When that honourable gentleman was the Minister of Finance, and defending his budget, I thought he was pathetic; I thought he was even more pathetic when he was defending the Gillespie affair. Today, however, his actions are beyond description, except to say that they are worse than pathetic.

I tried to find some possible explanation for the behaviour of the Liberal Party in the Senate. In this morning's paper, I read an article describing their actions and I thought to myself, "That is the real problem there." The real problem is that Senator Davey has been manipulating and controlling the Liberal Party in the backroom for years. After the last leadership convention and the last election—

Senator Davey: I wonder if the senator would accept a question? It is merely for information. I would like to know to which publication he was referring to when he said "this morning's paper."

Senator Phillips: I believe it was the *Gazette*, but I will certainly send you a copy of the article. I am sure you will find it enlightening.

Senator Davey: Thank you.

Senator Phillips: Senator Davey then decided he did not like being just an ordinary Liberal; that it was not fair after some 20-odd years, so he decided to hijack the Liberal Party. Senator Davey thought he was highjacking a 747. Imagine his surprise, honourable senators, when he found out that he had highjacked a hot air balloon. It was not even a modern balloon; it was one of the original balloons from around 1880. Senator Davey had a bit of trouble keeping that balloon afloat, and, as everyone knows, when a balloon is having difficulty staying afloat, particularly in turbulent weather, you throw ballast overboard—

Senator Davey: More hot air; that is what keeps the balloon up in the air, senator, hot air.

Senator Phillips: I will come to your hot air in a moment. Take your time. Be patient.