

*Broadcasting House Proceedings*

think the government will understand our reluctance to give the motion unreserved approval without certain safeguards. It is important for Liberals, Conservatives or anyone else for that matter to realize that everything is possible in politics, and that broadcasting might eventually serve to rebuild the Liberals' image throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this verges on politics. But before I conclude, there is something I want to put on record once more. I circulated across the country during the holidays, partly before, partly after. I went through the province, I saw people totally helpless, and industries shut down because there is no industrial strategy. My colleagues from Rimouski, from Roberval, from Bellechasse had the same experience. This applies throughout northwest Quebec. The feeling is that nobody is listening anymore.

Projecting Parliament's image will not solve unemployment. Nor will it prevent the flow of imports that are submerging our Canadian markets and constantly kill jobs here. Broadcasting will not give Canadians more amenities, nor will it change the Anti-inflation Act. What may I ask, is this motion No. 8 on broadcasting doing in the picture? It is a totally ridiculous priority. The government should realize that in addition to losing touch, they are now at a loss to understand Canadian problems and priorities.

I suggest to the government leader that we will not approve this motion so long as we have no absolute guarantee from the government that they will put forward practical policies for fighting unemployment, that they will develop an industrial strategy to protect existing jobs and control imports, so long in other words as we have no assurance that this government has a plan to manage the country and get it out of the current chaos.

Even if as a general principle this is acceptable, the government must understand that as far as members of the Social Credit Party are concerned, radio and television broadcasting of the proceedings of this chamber do not constitute a priority, but the economy does. We have been elected to represent the people, not to entertain them. It is indeed important to broadcast the parliamentary proceedings and it is important for Canadians to know how parliamentary work is done and to see what is taking place here, day after day, but as my colleague from Rimouski (Mr. Allard) said, it is even more important to give bread to Canadians and to the workers.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons I must let the government leader know that we are deeply disappointed with the priorities he set before us. I have in my hand this ridiculous list which he sent to the House leader of our party in which he complains about the inefficiency of the House of Commons. He recognizes it while putting the broadcasting of inefficient things as a top priority. This shows Canada that we badly need some leadership in our country, as there is a total lack of it now.

The government complains that we spend too much time discussing, but let us have a look at the list it sent us. Bill C-3, on the Canada Deposit Insurance Act; to date we have spent exactly 30 minutes debating it. Now, is that abuse? Bill C-8, on satisfied securities, we have debated exactly 13 minutes.

[Mr. Fortin.]

Bill C-12, on income tax agreements: we have discussed exactly 12 minutes. Bill C-5, on currency and exchange matters, we have studied for one hour and 40 minutes. And I could go on like this, Mr. Speaker, which shows that the government, while knowing the facts, tries to distort them. We too have those facts; we can prove to this House that its business is slowed down, not by the opposition but rather by a government that has no solution to put forward or to oppose to the various problems; and that, coming up against very serious ones indeed, it does not know how to approach them, it has no solution to suggest and that, consequently, it tries to accuse the House of Commons of inefficiency in an effort to cover up its own lack of leadership.

That is the fundamental reason why the government, on the very first sitting in 1977, without wanting to speak of the unemployment and other problems, imposes that ridiculous policy on us, Mr. Speaker, a policy that will change absolutely nothing, economically, for any Canadian, anywhere in Canada, quite content with entertaining the people to evade the problems.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I should like to give the government one assurance and repeat that, in principle, we can only be in favour of televising the debates in this House thus enabling Canadians to be better informed; but before agreeing to passing this resolution in the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, we will demand formal guarantees on some technical aspects, from the start. The leader of the government, who initiates the business of this House, will have to guarantee the changes I have just asked, concerning the oral question period, and the statements of the minister. We also have a number of other proposals to put forward in this respect. Otherwise, the government leader is venturing out into some sort of tower of Babel in which televising our debates will only perpetuate the downgrading of the role of public men in Parliament, since the rules of the game will not be fair and because all hon. members will not be put on an equal footing.

Mr. Speaker, in short we want the members for Rimouski, Roberval, Bellechasse, Shefford, Abitibi or Villeneuve (Messrs. Allard, Gauthier, Lambert, Rondeau, Laprise, Caouette) to be treated on an equal footing during the proceedings in this House, otherwise the government leader will realize that our co-operation is not quite a foregone conclusion.

[English]

**Mr. Jim Fleming (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the opportunity of speaking today on a subject that has been dear to my heart for some years, years long before I entered this House of Commons, years when I think I had an opportunity to learn about the power and the importance of modern electronics, radio and television.

In speeches I gave to constituents over the Christmas break, and in discussions I have had with colleagues for some five or six months, I have tried to argue that if Canada and Canada's parliament face crises today in the survival of the nation, if we face very real dilemmas such as the problem of inflation and the concurrent problem of increasing unemployment, that