

The important thing here is that we all know that to operate a business, it takes a certain amount of dollars. The dollars that Budget and Hertz and those other big guys are not paying are paid by you and I and our constituents. The profitability for the car companies must be there some place. So for every dollar that they save, it is a dollar more that the average Canadian has to pay in order that those companies get the profit they are going to end up getting in any case.

● (1130)

I know that others have spoken on this before, but I would like to read a portion of the summary of the Federation of Automobile Dealer Associations of Canada that was given to me by Mr. Raymond Grégoire whom I identified earlier. It states in part:

FADA members are concerned about a special pricing situation which, within the industry, is known as "fleet subsidies". Such subsidies (discounts) are provided by motor vehicle manufacturers on vehicles which go into the lease/rental market; but are not provided for vehicles going into the sales market (for the general public). The lease/rental market is characterized by companies such as Budget, Hertz, Avis, and others, who purchase vehicles for their lease/rental fleets.

The vehicle manufacturers provide subsidies (discounts) to such lease/rental companies of up to a value of \$1,000 or more per vehicle.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the question which ought to be raised at this time is whether car manufacturers can afford to give the \$1,000 discount. Why should it not be given to Canadian consumers? Why should it not be given to people in my riding who earn only \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000 a year and who have to buy new cars? These people could use a bargain a lot more than the owners or shareholders of companies such as Hertz, Budget, Avis and other major car rental companies.

Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) has taken the right approach and deserves congratulations for the proposition he made this morning. Hopefully all Members of the House, regardless of political affiliation, will think about consumers and forget about their own partisan concerns for a few minutes—

**Mr. Masse:** The Liberals have never done that!

**Mr. Boudria:** —and think about Canadian consumers, the taxpayers who sent us to this House to represent them.

I see the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) over there—

**Mr. Masse:** I have never seen you not being partisan. There! I have never seen this in 20 years of political life, it is awful!

**Mr. Boudria:** I urge him as well to rise above his usual partisan approach—

### *Competition Tribunal Act*

**Mr. Masse:** Check your facts and consider past history. You will see it never happened.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications is getting all excited about this.

I urged him to rise above such partisan considerations and think in terms of the well-being of Canadian consumers.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party is not alone in making this request, the Federation of Automobile Dealers of Canada seeks justice for consumers.

I hope the Minister of Communications will take the floor in a few minutes and support the proposition made by the Hon. Member for Papineau.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) will also support this measure once she has calmed down after losing control a few minutes ago.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying a moment ago—

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. There is no need to reflect on what is happening in the chamber. The Hon. Member has risen to make a speech. I wish he would give it.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member was making a speech but he was disturbed by what was going on in the House. He was just commenting on what happened.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** If the Hon. Member was disturbed, he could have risen on a point of order asking that the Hon. Minister not disturb him in this debate. That is not what he said. It is the way he reflected on another Member in the House. I would call him to order as I would call anyone else to order in this respect. Therefore, I hope he will just carry on with debate in a quiet and calm manner.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I take note of your comments and, of course, accept them. I am sure the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) also accepts them in the same light.

I support the initiative of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Papineau in his amendment to Bill C-91. I want to stress to all Members of the House that this initiative has the support of the Federation of Automobile Dealer Associations of Canada because it is a good amendment. I hope that all Members will pass this amendment unanimously because I am sure it would please all our constituents.