

Family Allowances Act, 1973

Mr. Collenette: Shame on him. I do not think I need to speak any longer, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Collenette: I have made my point. I have always noticed in my years in the Chamber, Mr. Speaker, that when you provoke a storm on the other side it is because the point that you are making is hitting the truth.

Mr. Riis: Remember why you jumped up, David.

Mr. Collenette: If I was talking a bunch of nonsense, if I had nothing to contribute, there would be silence in the Chamber. It is obvious that we have them on the defensive because of the faulty logic which has been used in this debate.

Anyway, to summarize, the six and five program is the best damn program to come along in a long time. It is the first step in economic recovery in this country.

Mr. Riis: Talk about Family Allowances, Dave.

Mr. Collenette: It in itself will not do the trick. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and members of the Government have acknowledged that, and that is why we had the economic statement on October 27; that is why we will have a budget in the new year as well as a speech from the Throne. The six and five program is but the first step to economic recovery in this country. As I said before, Mr. Speaker, when I spoke earlier on second reading, the Opposition Parties do not want the six and five program to succeed. The NDP in particular thrive in an inflationary society. You know why? They have no concept of economic reality. They have never been in a position of government in this country and are never likely to be. So they can throw good economics to the wind. They do not have to think about responsible economic policy.

Miss Jewett: You do not know anything about the West.

Mr. Collenette: It is because they thrive—listen to this roar, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Riis: We are trying to drown out the drivel.

Mr. Collenette: It is because I have hit a sore point.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Hon. Member, in the spirit of parliamentary reform to which we both subscribe as Members of the Committee on Standing Orders and Procedure, would submit to a question?

Mr. Irwin: Take the easy ones first.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Hon. Member is aware, given his remarks about the NDP never having been in government, that there have been NDP governments in B.C., Manitoba and Saskatchewan—

Mr. Cullen: All defeated.

Mr. Blaikie: —and whether or not he might want to repent of this particular Ontario view of reality.

Mr. Collenette: I am glad the Hon. Member for Winnipeg Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) asked a question because it just substantiates the point I have made. He has resorted to the picayune to point out—

Miss Jewett: Picayune?

Mr. Collenette: —to point out a mere oversight. Obviously the NDP has been in power in some of the Provinces. I was talking about the federal Government. But the fact that they have picked up on that small oversight just substantiates my position. I defy the Hon. Member to ask a substantive question about what I have said in my speech. Let him stand up and ask a decent and intelligent question.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, first of all it is the first time in my life I have been called picayune. Secondly, if I could find anything of substance in the Hon. Member's speech, I would have asked a substantive question.

Mr. Collenette: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think it is about time that I wrapped this up.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1750)

Mr. Collenette: I do not think Hon. Members know what they are doing to me. Here we have the whole phalanx of the NDP. If only our viewers at home were permitted by the rules to see this panoply of tired Socialists imbedded in the rhetoric of the 1930s who are not willing to face the challenges of the 1980s. If the people at home could see this tired group, they would know that the policies advocated by the Government in this program and in this Bill are the only sane and rational ones, and that the Opposition in this country is flailing around. It is not really serious about attacking our policies. It is making small points—I call them picayune—but it does not address the major issues: to get inflation down, to get Canadians back to work, and to get the economy going again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, if the previous speaker suggested that there was a particular Party here interested in sandbagging, holding up or otherwise blocking this Bill and that it was the New Democratic Party, he was absolutely right.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rose: He accused us of lack of idealism, vision, lack of imagination, lack of brains, lack of everything. From where I come, in terms of the Liberal Party there is a distinct lack of Members. It is because of his expression of attitudes like this that there are no Liberal Members in the West. There is no one in the West, as far as he is concerned, who is not picayune.

Tragically, on every street corner in this festive season—and he talked about getting people back to work—as we indulge in lights, Christmas trees, Christmas cards and Christmas cheer, we find in virtually every community across the land that radio