

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

#### ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):

That this House, finding unacceptable the performance of the Government, particularly its penchant for shifting blame, reaffirms its belief in the importance of the convention of ministerial responsibility and expresses its lack of confidence in the Government.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, at this time—

**Mr. Paproski:** Let's hear the truth now, and let's hear it for Bryce.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Paproski:** You have some support on this side. You are not all that bad.

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, the only ones supporting me are the philatelists. They want their first cover issues.

**An hon. Member:** Let's keep this clean.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, I am at a handicap as I forgot my glasses.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** It is very difficult.

**Mr. Paproski:** That's no handicap. You are better without reading it anyway, Bryce.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** As I said before six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was really very disappointed that this is the last opposition day debate before the end of the session. I happen to be a little bit of a traditionalist and I would like to be serious for a moment.

There were two events I enjoyed this session; one was discussing my estimates in the House, which took place on a Friday as I recall when there were a lot of excellent and intelligent questions asked from the local party and the odd one from the opposition. Really it was parliament as I knew it in the 1960's, when you had to defend yourself.

If I have any advice for a friend who might come into the House of Commons it would be that he must learn to defend himself without being personal. If you cannot do this then you do not belong here, because one must look at the House of Commons and come to the conclusion that there have been great speakers, great debaters in this House of Commons and in this country for over 100 years. Somehow they learned the difference between personal vindictiveness and debate. This is a very important point, and it makes all the difference between a job and working at something you enjoy.

### Ministerial Responsibility

I sit here languishing in relative obscurity most days. I must admit that I admire the hon. gentleman representing Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker). He has a gift for words, but I admire him because he never gets personal, and I say that sincerely. Mind you, he is very obvious, but that is another thing. He became very obvious early today when suddenly he rediscovered the electors in the public service and the upcoming Ottawa byelection in October.

The amazing thing about that hon. gentleman's speech was that he did not make the point that should have been made when talking about parliament.

**Mr. Paproski:** You have no excuse now, but you were going great guns without your glasses.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, there is a gentleman out of order, but it is not unusual for the socialists. They have never been in order as long as I can recall.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Just before six o'clock I asked the minister if, when we came back at eight o'clock, he would speak to the motion, and I think his answer was "with pleasure". I wonder whether he is now going to address himself to the motion before us.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** That is what he is doing, but you do not like it.

**Mr. Mackasey:** My problem was that I did not have my glasses and I was not sure what the motion was.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mackasey:** At quarter to ten the House of Commons will express its opinion on the motion as to whether this House has a lack of confidence in the government. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman will vote with or against the government, but I am willing to concede, or risk my reputation, by stating that somehow the representatives of the people of Canada will express their confidence in the government that leads them, and in the Liberal party. If I am wrong—

● (2010)

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Tell us about ministerial responsibility.

**Mr. Mackasey:** An hon. gentleman says, "Speak to the motion". I am doing precisely that. I am doing what the hon. gentleman for Winnipeg North Centre said, "Me too". The nice thing about the speech by the hon. gentleman from Grenville-Carleton is he said they are really the unofficial voice of the public service and that we are really bad people on this side in that we have been really hard on the public service. They say, "Look how you have treated a certain individual; we wouldn't do that". But day after day after day someone over there would get up and say, "When are you going to fire 11,000 public servants in the Ottawa district because your office is too big?"

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** We never said that.