

Restraint of Government Expenditures

What do we have tonight? We have the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who a year or so ago said separatism is dead, going on the national airways and television—

Mr. Blaker: Mr. Speaker on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Lachine-Lakeshore (Mr. Blaker) on a point of order.

Mr. Blaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order not so much because I want to contend with the remarks made by the hon. member because the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) was correct; hon. members do stray from the point. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) is supposed to be discussing Bill C-19. I am not interested in hearing his views on the recent Quebec election. To me it seems logical that the hon. member should be asked to stay on Bill C-19.

Mr. Mazankowski: This bill is destroying Confederation if you read it. Read the bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It seems that the hon. member for Lachine-Lakeshore (Mr. Blaker) has a valid point. I do not think the Quebec election has anything to do with Bill C-19, and I would hope that the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) would confine his remarks to Bill C-19.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I am getting sick and tired of false interruptions from the opposite side.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: With due respect, if hon. members read the bill as I read it and try to anticipate these fictitious points of order—we are talking about government expenditures. In the generality of any second reading debate a member is entitled to become pretty general. I am coming to the reason why I am opposed to this bill. Although the hon. member for Lachine-Lakeshore (Mr. Blaker) is not directly affected there are members from Quebec who will be adversely affected by clauses of Bill C-19 referring to the export of flour and grain. But, Mr. Speaker, I will come back to the false point of order. With respect to your ruling, or your suggestion, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that any member who has had any experience in second reading debates would know that when you open a report talking about government expenditures—what more are you talking about than certain principles? I was going to suggest two things that would make any Canadian ashamed of the government's record. One is that the Government of Canada and the Prime Minister are using government expenditures tonight to go on our national airwaves and tell Canadians things are not as bad as they were, even though he said six months ago that separatism is dead.

The second point is that Canadians have become disillusioned with this government. The polls are so low you could have one of those little Schnauzer dogs and it could not do anything against the pole because the pole is too high—a

[Mr. Nowlan.]

poodle dog would be too high the way the polls are in terms of the present standing of the party. The Prime Minister, who came on the federal scene with a mandate to bring us together, now has to go on CBC tonight and state that things are not quite the way he would like them to be.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I am not happy that he has to do it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: But I can also say this—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Nowlan: The second and fundamental reason why the polls are too high—if you had a Pekingese you could not get it to use those poles.

What else is the federal government supposed to do than bring us together and look after spending? In the Auditor General's report filed this week—which is the second arrow in my two arrow bow—there is an indictment against the government for the way it has managed spending in this country, that has no history or precedent—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: For these two fundamental reasons, and in a general way talking about the principle of unity in this country which the Prime Minister now has to say is not quite the way he would like to see it through his rose coloured glasses—it is fundamental that every Prime Minister since Sir John A. Macdonald has tried to bring this country together.

As far as Bill C-19 is concerned, it is the second indictment against this government by every Canadian who has to pay income tax and sales tax, and by every Canadian who watches the Prime Minister on television try to explain the unexplainable and defend the indefensible. Every Canadian knows that there has never been a government in the history of Canada which has spent taxpayers' money as this government has.

● (1710)

Mr. Mazankowski: No other government has wasted as much, that is right.

An hon. Member: You won't be here much longer.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I think I will be here a lot longer than the hon. lady from South Western Nova. In my short time in this House this country's budget has risen from \$6.8 billion to about \$42 billion.

Mr. Fraser: Many hon. members, hear, hear!

Miss Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I did not hear what the hon. member had to say about the