

Adjournment Debate

Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey). I would like to say at this time by way of a riposte that I could remind him of the details involving a "page" from his past, and a well-known trip he made to Toronto to secure legal advice when he was Premier of Nova Scotia from a prominent Toronto lawyer in order to discourage a reporter who was interested in the incident. And later on, if I recall, a similar intervention was made with the CBC to forestall another fascinating piece of research. However, I am always willing to elaborate on any detail or questions involving my conduct, both public and private. If the former Premier wishes to elaborate on this, I am sure that people would be interested.

● (1805)

However, as the late John Diefenbaker used to say, when you are after big game, you should not be diverted by rabbits. I want to go back to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and point out that he and his predecessors, both of whom have had legal training, must realize upon mature reflection what a clumsy subterfuge this attempt was to avoid the very proper intent of Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) guidelines to regulate the conduct of this Parliament. He must be given credit for that. Both of them would gain in stature if they would simply admit this.

Speaking in the House last Thursday, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources made a point of referring to the sacrifices that a former Cabinet minister makes in public life. As he put it so colloquially, they should not have to go to the Sparks Street Mall with a cup in order to earn a living. I think it is a fair comment that neither the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources nor his predecessor could have gained any more out of life in the private sector than they did by coming into public service. I venture to say that instead of making sacrifices, they are the net beneficiaries, as many of us are, of entering public life. To cry poor mouth after having served the country under these circumstances is a pretty artificial way of gaining sympathy.

While on the subject of the private sector, I must say that it is strange indeed that Mr. Gillespie, apparently a knowledgeable businessman with a lot of versatility, chose his own department and his own deputy minister to pursue his business initiatives. One would have thought he would have pursued some of the other myriad and imaginative ways there are of making money.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay) has taken issue with some of the answers provided him. I certainly wish to take issue with some of the comments he has made today. In particular, he made reference to things the officials of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources had done in terms of circumventing guidelines established by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

I wish to refute all the arguments made by the Hon. Member for Central Nova and point out to him that the money contained in the Canada-Nova Scotia agreement of 1977, \$9.2

million, was provided to a bank account in Halifax, and was to be administered independently by two individuals representing the Government of Canada and two individuals representing the Province of Nova Scotia. An independent joint management committee was administering the money.

It is sad that the Hon. Member for Central Nova dismisses, as the interim Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nielsen) has, the benefits of such a project to industrial Cape Breton. Aside from the 2,000 or 2,500 jobs that might be created in the coal mines, there is the economic multiplier of three or four which brings it up to 7,000 or 8,000 jobs. As he ought to know that that is very important in industrial Cape Breton.

Notwithstanding the jobs, there is the issue of self-sufficiency. That 40,000 to 60,000 barrels of oil per day is being displaced is not a serious thing in the Canadian context, but when you look at it from a Nova Scotia perspective it is great indeed.

It ought to be noted that when the Hon. Member for Central Nova was minister of Regional and Economic Expansion in the former Government, he did not provide any money to help the Donkin mine proceed. When Sysco came looking for financial assistance from the federal Government, what money did he provide for the people of Cape Breton? Not one cent. He was a Conservative minister, dealing with a Conservative Government in Nova Scotia. What deal did he get for the coal miners of Cape Breton on the price of coal sold to the Nova Scotia Power Corporation? He got nothing. He has got nothing for them for a good many years, not only while he was a minister, but while he has been a Member of Parliament. Where has he been for 22 months while this issue has been going on? Where has the Hon. Member for Nova Scotia been—asleep?

● (1810)

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE—IMPORTATION OF PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEO CASSETTES. (B) APPLICATION OF TAX WRITE-OFFS—REQUEST THAT LEGISLATION BE AMENDED

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, on February 14, I rose in the House to ask a question concerning the importation of pornographic material into Canada, and I was not satisfied with the answer I obtained from the Minister.

I should like to point out that the advent of mass access to video cassette players has opened the floodgates for pornography in Canada. Since the introduction of the home video cassette recorder in 1975, the video equipment market has expanded by at least 300 per cent. One can only guess the effects this has had on the pornography industry in Canada.

Recent estimates of the dollar value of the industry in North America range from a low of \$1 billion, according to *The Globe and Mail* of last July 6, to a high of \$50 billion per annum, as given by a spokesman of the special anti-pornography squad of the Ontario Provincial Police. This is one of the few police forces in Canada which has a special squad to handle pornography. I think it is very commendable.