

Government Orders

Mr. Simmons: I am just setting the stage for the benefit of my good friend, the President of the Treasury Board, who has had a rough day so far. I do not want to make it any rougher for him.

I was just about to say that with the decision of a very unpopular PM to step down, we would expect this morning, if we believe the rhetoric, that all had changed. We would believe that all the bills where the rich were being looked after at the expense of the poor, all the bills such as Bill C-113 where the poor were being pummeled to help the rich, were no more because the whole landscape had changed. The rhetoric of yesterday was that all the bad things the public of Canada has come to associate with this regime are no more. It has all been exorcized from the public domain. The arsonist has run out of matches. He is tired of lighting the matches. He is throwing in the towel.

This morning when we stand and sit here and see this bill, what really has changed? We are still debating the legislation, which I suppose had the concurrence of the retiring Prime Minister but certainly had the concurrence of the cabinet.

• (1150)

Let us understand how bills get before this Chamber. They do not come at the whim of one person, be it the Prime Minister or somebody else, they come here because a party, a government caucus, in its wisdom feels this is the kind of legislation it wants to promote.

We are getting that on the record because we are going to see some interesting two-steps over the next few months. The category of speech from my friends such as the Minister for International Trade, the Minister of National Defence, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Minister of Communications will be: "The devil made me do it. I really did not agree with this GST. If I were there it would have been different". They were there, and when this bill was agreed to they were there.

They agreed to set out and look after some family fortunes in Montreal, Toronto and other places across this country. They were there when Bill C-92 was concocted. The ministers of environment, employment,

international trade, defence, and communications were there.

They were there when Bill C-113 was concocted, when it was decided to label all people who quit employment because of sexual harassment or other forms of harassment. They were there when it was decided to pummel those people. They were there when it was decided in Bill C-92 to look after the Bronfmans in Montreal. I wonder if the Bronfmans will be affected by Bill C-13. If they quit their job without notice will they have to line up to be told they do not qualify? Not likely.

Let us talk about Bill C-92. The Bronfmans of Montreal will rest easier once this amendment gets shoved through the House by the Prime Minister, retiring though he is, and by the ministers of employment, environment, communications and trade.

Mr. Blenkarn: Why?

Mr. Simmons: I hear the voice from Mississauga South. I am not the first Newfoundlander to hear that voice with some apprehension. Others in Newfoundland have heard that voice before. What they cannot do is get their hands on the carcass.

Mr. Blenkarn: Last summer I was there.

Mr. Simmons: The last time he went to Newfoundland he went incognito. My advice to him is to either not go any more or to go incognito a second time. I am not the first Newfoundlander to hear that voice and to hear it apprehensively. He can insult me all he wants. I am paid to take his insults.

Mr. Blenkarn: Well that is good.

Mr. Simmons: He cannot insult the people of Newfoundland, as he did several times, without some retribution. I advise him for the sake of his own carcass not to go there any more or to go there incognito like he did last summer and not tell anybody he is there.

He asked a question and I will give him the answer in a minute. Let me first list off the names. The Bronfmans of Montreal, now there is a poor family who needs the legislative help of this particular Chamber.

Mr. Blenkarn: How are they affected?

Mr. Simmons: How are they affected? They own Seagrams.