

### Supply

I then ask the minister what is it? Why is he cutting this program? Is it because of a bunker mentality? Is it some notion that this government cannot cope anymore with things and has to hit back? Is the government somehow afraid of criticism, as Grace says.

This idea is appearing all over the place. In Stevie Cameron's column she talks about cutbacks to freedom of information, and the combination with the Privacy Act and freedom of information. She says: "The Tory government is doing everything it can to kill freedom of information and to kill access to information". You can see it in the attempt of the Minister for International Trade to try to restrict freedom of information on trade issues. It is all over the place.

I say to the minister: "He can find some money. This program is not finished, there are aspects of it that can continue. There are things to be done. The provinces cannot fill the gap, but they can help. I am prepared to help him find ways to do that".

I ask the minister to look at it because there is something else that we should consider. These are our courts. These courts belong to the people of Canada. Everybody should be in the courts, not just the rich. They are funded by our money. We pay the judges and the court staff and so on. Can we not pay some people to take some difficult cases to the courts?

The government did that and the government was a good government for doing so.

Why is the government fighting against our people in this way? I do not understand it. This is the unkindest cut of them all. This is a cut that directly affects people who are dispossessed, people of colour—

**An hon. member:** That's what you said when VIA Rail was cut.

**Mr. Waddell:** The hon. member said that is what I said when VIA Rail was cut. When VIA Rail was cut I said that it was a cutback of the institutions of Canada. I said that it was going to hurt this country if this government keeps cutting VIA Rail, the post office, the CBC, and so on.

I am as aware as he is that we have problems with money. However it seems to me that this is the wrong place to cut the money. These people are not able to find alternate sources of money. These people are the poor

and marginalized in our society and for once the government gives them a break. Why, then, take it away?

This is why I am angry with the minister, whom I normally respect very much.

I ask him to find a way to continue this program, to find a way to tell these people that the government has not given up on language rights across this country. That is not easy for a westerner to say.

I ask the minister to find a way to tell the franco-Columbian group in British Columbia: "We are with you, keep going". I ask him to find a way to continue to finance these cases so we can make our courts open to all. This was the unkindest cut of them all.

I ask the minister to find a way to reinstate this program with or without the co-operation of the provinces or other people, to keep it alive, as he has in the past, until we can come up with some alternative.

• (1640 )

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the member for his speech.

I listened to his speech attentively and I must say that he understands, like many of us here, the seriousness of the debate. I want to thank him from the bottom of my heart for his support.

Today we are on supply proceedings. For those of us who are familiar with the House rules, we are indeed debating supply. That means money for the government. Under those rules the opposition is given 20 days a year to call subject matter which is debated.

Today, the opposition, I moved the motion and my friend from Cape Breton—The Sydneys seconded it, moved a motion to reinstate a program under the minister's department. It is a program which I think is essential.

I want to ask the member who just spoke if he has had a chance to look at the spending authorities for the Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship. If he examines those expenditures he will find that the bureaucratic expenses have gone up by some substantial amount but that the grants and contributions have decreased by about \$24 million.

The minister says that he is trying very hard to create better race relations, that he is trying to fight racism and that his priority this year has been on that subject. However he did not tell us that he deferred the Cana-