

noon and this evening to the opposition spokesman in this particular debate. It has been a very worth-while exercise to try to deduce what the subject is from what they are saying. Nothing has been said thus far that would indicate to me that we ought to be talking about the government's alleged "failure to develop and implement a coherent economic development policy."

The least the House could expect from hon. members opposite is that they address themselves to that subject at least once or twice during their remarks, but their batting average on that one tonight is absolutely zero. They have done all the right things, the Tory and the NDP spokesmen, without exception. They did the predictable this afternoon and this evening. They indulged in a veritable orgy of condemnation. They tell us that everything is wrong in this country, there is nothing right any more. Even one Tory agrees with me.

● (2120)

Mr. Wilson: No.

Mr. Simmons: Do I see two?

Mr. Wilson: No.

Mr. Simmons: They do the predictable, the usual business, the orgy of words, the orgy of condemnation, the wrath. They are all worked up, in true Pavlovian style. Once again they perform their little simplistic act to win the approbation of those in the seats next to them. What about the subject at hand? Where is the evidence? Why do they not give us some evidence? Why do they not cite some evidence about this alleged failure to which the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) has drawn our attention? Where is it? Another thing I noticed this afternoon and this evening—

Mr. Wilson: When were you here?

Mr. Simmons: I would not expect the hon. member to know what I am talking about.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Simmons: They are tender tonight. They have lost their leader.

Mr. Nystrom: Which leader?

Mr. Simmons: That is what we are all asking. Where is the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) these days, the real leader?

Miss MacDonald: Where is the Minister of Finance?

Mr. Simmons: Up she goes!

Miss MacDonald: Is he out sucking his sore thumb?

Mr. Kempling: He is sucking his thumb again, is he?

Mr. Simmons: Their heart is not in it.

Mr. Kempling: Your foot is in it.

Economic Development

Mr. Simmons: That is what I noticed this afternoon and this evening. They stand up and go through the motions. We got them up to say a few words because they had to punch the day. It was an opposition day, one which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) begged for last week. Where is he now if he wants to talk about so-called economic failure?

Miss MacDonald: Where's MacEachen?

Mr. Simmons: The Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) has a very good reason to not be here, as the hon. member knows. I have finally found something to incite the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). This evening they stand and go through the motions, but their heart is not in it. Why, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Kempling: That is three times you have said that.

Mr. Simmons: I have to say it four, five, six, seven times for some people.

Mr. Wilson: On a point of order, I am really standing on a point of order to allow the hon. member opposite to get hold of his emotions. He started off on three, possibly four different points and he has not been able to continue any point to its proper conclusion. I would like to allow him the time to rethink his thoughts so that he might make that point which is so telling and so important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Simmons: I say to the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) that even the Speaker thinks he is making a fool of himself. He should keep his mouth shut so that some doubt will remain. If he opens it, there will be no doubt at all. I advise him to listen. He might even learn something.

Mr. Wilson: From you? Never!

Mr. Simmons: Being in an instructive mood tonight, as I am, I will go over my three or four points again. I thought I was dealing with some reasonably intelligent people. I admit that I assumed that I had a fairly sophisticated group of listeners and would be able to move rather quickly. For the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre, and my apologies to the rest who understood, I will cover the points again. Then I will give to him, in writing, explanatory notes. Who knows, he might understand them.

Mr. Wilson: One.

Mr. Simmons: One, where is the evidence of this alleged failure by this government to have an economic policy? Where is it? I have not heard one shred of evidence this afternoon or this evening. There were a lot of tactics, and I heard a lot of wind and hot air. However, I did not hear one shred of evidence about any lack of an economic development policy, not one.