

particularly by members of parliament in Edmonton, to help check through the various LIP projects with their consultative committee, why must we put up with an appointed member from the other place, who does not know Edmonton and who, may I add, in the Prime Minister's words "doesn't know his razzmataz from a hole in the ground," being allowed to make an announcement on behalf of the government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, the question is hypothetical, but if there is a concrete case the hon. member might let me know.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, one supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: One supplementary; the hon. member for Edmonton Centre.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman from the other place is from Palliser, the foothills or some place in southern Alberta, who does not know Edmonton and is not aware of what is going on in the area. Can the Prime Minister tell the House why he cannot appoint a senator from Edmonton and let him make the announcement, or otherwise appoint the senator to the cabinet?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would agree with the procedure providing it were initiated by a senator from Edmonton I would take notice of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner).

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have listened with great interest to some of the questions posed by hon. members, beginning with the hon. member for Leeds regarding LIP grants. This affects the responsibility of a good many ministers. I want to say that in my capacity as a minister in eastern Ontario not once have I intervened politically in a grant in any riding in eastern Ontario, nor to favour any Liberal riding.

An hon. Member: Would the rest of the cabinet stand up?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The only time I intervened with the minister responsible was October 31, 1973, to ensure that the ridings in eastern Ontario, no matter what their political coloration, received a fair proportion of grants in relation to the entire province.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We have relied on the advice of the member of parliament—whatever he or she might be—from eastern Ontario or, where a consultative committee was constituted, on that advice. I might say that in 1973-74—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

LIP Grants

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With all due respect, the hon. minister may be making a valuable contribution to the subject but I must point out that the question period is over. The hon. minister has not been asked a direct question. If I permit the minister to make the statement which he proposes to make, I will have to open the other side of the matter and allow supplementary questions and further examination. I really feel that we have gone beyond the end of the question period and I do not think the matter should go any further.

● (1520)

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I conclude what I was saying on the point of order because the hon. member represents a riding for which I have some general responsibility, although not as much as I should like. The three ridings, Leeds, Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton and Grenville-Carleton, all received a good deal more money in LIP grants in 1973-74 than did the riding of the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the point of order raised by the Minister of Finance. I did not realize that he felt the shoe fits him as obviously as he has shown here this afternoon. Nobody made accusations directly against the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The accusation involves all ministers.

Mr. Stanfield: It involves all ministers in so far as it involves the system which the Minister of Finance presumably approved.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): But I was denying that that system existed.

Mr. Stanfield: I do not mean to question the good faith of the Minister of Finance when he says that, but his statement is directly contrary to a memo written to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and signed by the minister's own deputy minister. I can only assume that although the Minister of Finance is presumably acting in good faith, he does not know what is going on in the government. Perhaps, since this is the hour for true confession, the other ministers concerned could get up and tell us all they know.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: There are a lot of guilty consciences on the government side.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I interrupted the minister to indicate that although an intervention by him may be valuable in contributing to the general knowledge of members on this subject, what we are doing does not seem to fit into the procedures of the House in any regular way. Having balanced that observation against the observation made by the Leader of the Opposition, I still cannot be persuaded that further discussion of the subject is in order at this time. We have an important matter to debate as an order of the day. If we open up this subject, presumably we will have to carry on and hear every minister.