Supply

would also be accepting the amendments to the Criminal Code that were suggested in that report.

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, we certainly do intend to bring the bill forward.

I understand that the final draft is literally hours away. I am expecting to receive it and I will table it as soon as possible.

On the specifics, I can give you this general answer. I cannot give you the specifics but I can give you this general answer. The bill will reflect the recommendations of the committee of the House which the hon. member chaired and which was as a unanimous result.

There are one or two things where our legal advisers said we might have difficulty doing this or that. There was no dispute among cabinet colleagues with respect to the fundamental recommendations of the hon. member's committee.

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq): Madam Speaker, it was a very moving speech by the hon. House leader of the government.

With all the signs of being angry at our daring to question the antics of the government and his comment about more people refraining from those kinds of antics, it just strikes me that I do not have the ability to do all that and look very mad.

If that is what he wants in the House, would he be prepared to be the first to refrain from having those kinds of antics?

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, I will accept the hon. member's criticism if he will agree to talk to his colleagues from Newfoundland in particular—including the mustachioed one from Newfoundland—I think he knows who I am talking about. Some of the others have damaged my eardrums over the years.

I do get angry about the subject. Frankly, the false accusation of malfeasance is one of the things that offends me most about public life. Argue over policy. Argue over issues. Argue over approach. However, false accusations of malfeasance and impropriety is to me going at a person's reputation and I consider that dirty pool. The hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell the day I was in the House asked about the post office. He said: "You aren't closing all your rural post offices. You left a couple open in the Prime Minister's riding. That's evidence of patronage". Then he went out and repeated it to the press. He knows—I believe he knows and I could have told him—that he left six of them open in his riding.

An hon. member: He forgot that.

Mr. Andre: He forgot that. It is so easy to stand up here and say, "patronage". As a matter of fact there are five open in the Prime Minister's riding, but six in the hon. member's riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. It is this easy flinging of the accusation of patronage, of illegality, of malfeasance, of corruption that I think destroys the reputation of all of us, damages this institution and damages the country. Yes I do get angry when people do that.

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): Madam Speaker, I would put it to the House that the minister who just left does not get it.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member was just given the floor and in the first 20 seconds figured out a way to do something that, as a veteran member of this House, he knows he should not do and that is to mention the presence or absence of any one person on the House. I would appreciate the hon. member being a little more careful. I will give him the extra 20 seconds.

Mr. Kilgour: They told me that the minister might return if I coaxed him that way.

I would like to start if I may with a quote from somebody whom I think a lot of us have a lot of respect for, the late Adlai Stevenson. He said: "Public confidence in the integrity of the government is indispensable to faith and democracy. When we lose faith in the system we have lost faith in everything we fight and spend for".

Every member in this House and everybody who is sitting in the gallery or sitting around the House knows that this House of Commons and members of Parliament have never been held in lower esteem in the history of our country than right now. I think I saw a poll recently that pointed out that 9 per cent of Canadians have a great deal of respect or considerable respect—some such term—for members of Parliament.