

Time Allocation

go ahead. I notice there are no western Members here making those type of speeches. They are leaving it to their fellow Members from Ontario. Where are the western Members? I ask Hon. Members opposite, where are their western colleagues? How come they are not in the House? They are embarrassed by what their colleagues from Ontario are doing to them.

Mr. Rodriguez: Where are the risk-takers?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, mine was a very carefully prepared speech—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: I became somewhat excited by the complete lack of responsibility shown by my colleagues across the way. I appreciate having had the opportunity to contribute to this debate.

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some confusion with respect to what the Bill before us is all about.

An Hon. Member: You are confused.

Mr. Hopkins: I would like to set Hon. Members straight. Bill C-79 is an Act respecting the provision of compensation to depositors of Canadian Commercial Bank, CCB Mortgage Investment Corporation and Northland Bank in respect of uninsured deposits, as my hon. friend from Ottawa-Vanier pointed out to the previous speaker.

The previous speaker said that he had a well prepared speech. I would hate to hear one that is not prepared.

I would like to straighten out another matter as well. The Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) also spoke in this debate. He said: "We Conservatives are talking about \$470 million while the Opposition is talking about a \$1 billion bail-out." I think it behooves the Conservative Government at least to have its members read a Bill before they get up in the House to speak about it. Clause 16 of the Government's Bill reads as follows:

There is hereby appropriated, for the purposes of this Act eight hundred and seventy-five million dollars to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund from time to time as required.

Yet, the Hon. Member stands up and says: "We Conservatives are talking about \$470 million." How phoney can one get?

I would like to put another fact on the record. No list of depositors has been granted to the Members of this House before the Bill came before it for discussion. Indeed, no list was granted before the time allocation motion was moved.

We have no information with respect to the Northland Bank. I would remind all Hon. Members of the House that we as Members of Parliament sit here because we must be accountable to the taxpayers of the country. We do not sit in the House to vote blindly for something which is not explained

in principle nor, indeed, spelled out as being a Bill with respect to uninsured depositors in these banks.

I would also remind the Government that it was a Bill of the Liberal Government presented approximately five years ago which raised the limit on insured loans in the banks of Canada from \$20,000 to \$60,000. This Government now comes in and, holus-bolus, takes in everyone. All of us must be accountable to the taxpayers of this country and I hope that Hon. Members of this Government are prepared to go out into their own constituencies and explain to the senior citizens and those families with children why their tax deductibility was taken away from them. I hope those Hon. Members can explain why they are bailing out the rich and the wealthy.

● (1300)

Where is that great theory of Tory individual enterprise? We heard all of those speeches in the previous Parliament about investment and about the need to give people the chance to invest and take their risks.

Mr. Gauthier: Open Government.

Mr. Hopkins: Open Government. There is no risk here whatsoever. The Government's buddies get into trouble, and what does it do? It bails them out using the tax dollars taken out of the pockets of the little people. We are in the midst of debating one of the most difficult issues to hit the banking system in Canadian history, probably since the time of the railway scandal back in the 1870s.

The Government has tried to cut the senior citizens back in the name of economy, and it is going to be reminded of that day in and day out. The Government lifted \$170 million out of one of the best high-tech industries we have in Canada, namely, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. For what? Where is the money, Mr. Speaker? Is that \$170 million now being used to bail out the friends of the Tory Party of Canada?

I was quite interested during this debate to listen to Hon. Members of the Conservative Party talk about the terrible Opposition which is trying to drag out this debate and that they had to bring in closure. I remember, as I am sure other Hon. Members do, that in previous years when previous Governments would bring in limitation on debate, there would be the biggest screaming on earth from the Opposition. Is it not strange how the Tory philosophy changes now that those Hon. Members sit on the Government side of the House? It now becomes very worth while to bring in closure on debate. I remember sitting in one of those fine seats on the government side a few years ago when we, as a Government, brought in limitation on debate. The Opposition at that time stood up and sang "O Canada". They were not in very good voice but they sang it. I suppose they think that if we were really a responsible Opposition, we would stand up and sing "O Canada" hoping that we can save Canada from this Tory Government.

Mr. Lewis: Spare us.

Mr. Hopkins: Hon. Members on the Government side are trying their best to drive home the fact that this is a western