

*Ministerial Responsibility*

the public service, is looking apprehensively toward the by-election which is to take place in Ottawa-Carleton since there is now a pretty good indication that they will lose a contest which a month ago they thought, to use a vernacular expression, was in the bag. They are beginning to worry that Ottawa-Carleton will remain true to the Liberal party as it has for so long.

Because it is getting close to six o'clock, and I want to take only five or ten minutes in which to speak after the recess, let me make it clear that no government has done more for the public service than this government. We have given to certain elements the right to collective bargaining, the right to opt for strike action if that is felt necessary. We have resisted the demands of the opposition to deny that right, particularly at times when members opposite were prepared to remove that democratic privilege on the ground that a strike by public servants was inconveniencing one party or another.

When the chips are down, we live in one of the most democratic countries of the world, and the average Canadian will put up with legal strikes if the alternative is a form of government which infringes to an intolerable degree on civil liberties and freedom. If we on this side have any bias it is to see that public servants continue to enjoy the right to go on strike provided, of course, that they have met the legal requirements. That is official Liberal policy, and we shall find out whether it is official Conservative policy when the appropriate moment comes.

The motion before us is a "nothing" motion. I am surprised that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre should have stated very early in his address that his two-man party would support the opposition.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Three.

**Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand):** Four.

**Mr. Mackasey:** Four, then. In any event I suspect that the basic motive of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is the same as that of the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton. One of the things about being a New Democrat, and even more about the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, is that you become a living example of the old adage which says hope springs eternal in the human breast. The hon. gentleman really has hopes of winning that by-election in Ottawa-Carleton. Thus, when the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton sat down after his eloquent, effective, and persuasive speech, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre got up and virtually endorsed everything which had been said. Summed up in two words, his contribution to the debate was: "Me too."

It may be I am too suspicious. Maybe there has been a change in heart among the opposition. Perhaps they were concerned all these years about the plight of the public servants. Maybe they will stop demanding that we fire or lay-off tens of thousands of public servants across the country. Maybe they will cease to echo some of the editorials appearing in right wing papers in this country which say that bureaucracy is running rampant, that there are thousands on the payroll who should not be there. That is what we read day in and day out. But suddenly, the opposition is prepared to try to find out who these thousands of public servants are. They are people. They are

[Mr. Mackasey.]

voters. They are, many of them, residents of Ottawa. If the bureaucracy in this country grows it is because we as Canadians want more services, and if we want more services from government a larger bureaucracy is needed to supply them.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Would the minister permit a question?

**Some hon. Members:** Six o'clock.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Maybe the question could be asked after supper.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I want to ask the minister whether, when he gets back at eight o'clock, he will deal with the motion, which concerns ministerial responsibility?

**Mr. Mackasey:** That will be a pleasure.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

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**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**TABLING OF REPORT OF ANTI-INFLATION ACT ADMINISTRATOR**

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please the hon. Minister of National Revenue rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Cullen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I might seek the unanimous consent of the House to revert to the tabling of documents in order that I might table the report of the office of the Administrator under the Anti-Inflation Act.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Does the hon. minister have unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their generous and vocal support of my request to revert to the tabling of documents. Pursuant to Standing Order 41 I should like to table, in both official languages, the report of the office of the Administrator under the Anti-Inflation Act.