

*Restraint of Government Expenditures*

**Mr. McKenzie:** Mr. Speaker, I will be giving examples which certainly have to do with Bill C-19, which is a bill to control expenditures.

**Mr. Goodale:** This is a filibuster.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Perhaps after I have finished my remarks some hon. members opposite will tell me what they are doing about the issues raised in this article. Then they would be making a real contribution. I raised this matter once before in this House with the former minister of consumer and corporate affairs, who was praising the government here one night on what a brilliant job it was doing. When I raised this matter he gave me no answer at all. Perhaps some hon. members opposite can come up with something today.

There are many dedicated, conscientious and hardworking civil servants, but here are some examples of some who are not, again as related by Mr. Grenier:

Because of the sheer size of the bureaucracy, a civil servant who wants to can go almost completely underground, performing little or no work. A federal employee at the National Museums of Canada admitted to me that he works about an hour a week. He makes over \$15,000 a year. A bright young bureaucrat with the Foreign Investment Review Agency admits working about two hours a week. His salary is \$28,000.

That is not bad for two hours a week. What is the government doing about employees who are working one and two hours a week for this kind of money? I hope we can get some answers from government members today.

Mr. Grenier goes on to say the following:

From my own brief stint as a civil service information officer in Industry, Trade and Commerce, I can sympathize with him. He complains of not having enough to do, and when there are tasks, they seem to be meaningless. I discovered that working too fast simply left that much more time with nothing to do. Like the cubicles in the high-rise buildings, the bureaucratic workload is compartmentalized. Once you've finished the assigned work, there is usually little else to do. If you strike out on your own, you run the risk of trampling on someone else's jurisdiction. There is built-in discouragement for someone trying to make work by finding other jobs to do to fill in his time.

I do not know how widespread this is or whether this is completely factual, but as I said, I raised this matter in the House previously and there was no response from the former minister who was praising the government on the brilliant administration job it was doing. I hope some hon. members today will be able to answer some of these charges.

My remarks have not gone over too well with hon. members opposite, as they feel that I was not referring to Bill C-19 as much as I should. However, I feel the areas I have touched on are certainly important. They all have to do with the waste, extravagance, and uncontrolled spending there is within the government, and I touched on those areas today. We have never received any satisfactory answers, and all the government has done is propose the establishment of a royal commission. I am sure this royal commission will take at least two or three years, but there have been no comments from the government as to what it is going to do in the meantime. I do not know whether it has even looked at this document, the "Report of the Independent Review Committee". If all its recommendations were implemented we would have an excellent accounting system in Canada.

● (1700)

Before I finish, Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out that there is evidence here of improper accounting procedures in Crown corporations. In the Auditor General's report it is pointed out that \$14 million has gone astray in the CBC. I am well acquainted with how Air Canada works in Winnipeg—it is accountable to no one. Millions of dollars go astray and the Prime Minister and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) refuse to give satisfactory answers to our questions. All we get from the financial statement of Air Canada is the news that there is to be a general review. This is a Crown corporation dealing with taxpayers' money. I know perfectly well that nothing is being done in Air Canada but lots of recommendations in this document pointed out the faults with that corporation and said that a proper accounting system should be established for it and other Crown corporations.

With regard to those employees being paid \$28,000 a year for working two hours a week, and \$15,000 a year for working one hour of the week, I hope some member of the government can explain whether any research and study are being done into these charges made by Mr. Jacques Grenier and others. I shall certainly welcome their comments.

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to participate in the debate on Bill C-19. For those members who have just entered the Chamber and have not been paying attention to the debate, the short title of the bill is "An act to amend or repeal certain statutes to enable restraint of government expenditures". Mr. Speaker, you know and I know, and any member who has been in this Chamber more than ten minutes knows, that a bill referring to government expenditures can cover almost any relevant subject of government spending.

I was amused when the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) who I guess crawled out of the Spadina Expressway, rose on a facetious point of order to the effect that the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie) was out of order. I can understand his frustration and that of the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) who is also from the great metropolis of Toronto. The rest of us see it when we fly over it and we love to visit it, but we never hear from members opposite who hail from there except when they stand up at five after five, or five minutes to ten in the closing hours of debate and finally are consumed with courage to raise a point of order. I can understand and sympathize with those hon. members.

Frankly I can understand and sympathize with any member opposite. If I were even an objective Canadian—which I am not because I belong to this side and am partisan, and do not mind being partisan in a most constructive way—but if I were on the government side or were an objective Canadian, as most are when they are not committed to any political party, I would look at the events of this week in this second session of this Thirtieth Parliament which put in microcosm the pathetic record of the government.