

Adjournment Debate

Mr. Simmons: That is right. Get it all out. They have such pent up frustration that they have to stand and read prepared texts that they do not believe. Is it any wonder they want to babble on—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I thought the real tell-tale sign was a moment ago when my good friend from Halifax spoke and had to do what other Members ought to have been doing all day. Instead of singing the false praises of this Government, the Members from Nova Scotia, South Shore and Cumberland ought to have been up saying what she finally had to say. What did she, the Member from Halifax say today? The region worst hit is down the south shore, but it took a Liberal, an opposition Member of Parliament, to speak for those people because the Members they sent here to speak for them are so busy playing the violin on the Government's side, they have not got time or—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member from Fredericton on a point of order.

Mr. Bird: Mr. Speaker, the facts are that the Hon. Member for the South Shore (Mr. McCreath) is in the South Shore today working for those people, talking to those people and representing those people.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of South Shore, I want to thank publicly the Member for Halifax for standing up today on their behalf and fighting their cause and that of people of other parts of Nova Scotia, and yes, the people for Fredericton because when that gentleman was up speaking, he said nothing about the havoc being created on his own constituents. He was so busy telling us what a great utopia we have arrived at since this Government took over. Well, I and a good many of this constituents have news for him. It is not quite as good as he says it is. I would go as far as to say that he has grossly and badly misrepresented the situation here today. For that he will answer to his constituents in due time.

The Minister from Central Nova calls it a reprofiling. They are not cuts, the Minister says. It is not a cut to take x dollars that had been designated for a five-year expenditure, and stretch those same x dollars over a seven year period. In the Minister's special math, five goes into x the same number of times as seven goes into x. So where is the cut? That is clearly a reprofiling. I

come to the defence of the Minister for Central Nova for introducing a whole new set of concepts into our mathematics. I say to him that he is a great man, a fantastic fellow, a gentleman, but he is caught up in a terrible web. He is trying to defend the indefensible.

I could refer him to two applicants in my riding. I will not mention the communities because they are sufficiently small that the individuals concerned might be immediately known. I will just say generally that the two applicants I have in mind spoke to me on this particular weekend about having been told by his people in ACOA that their applications were approved. Then the rules got changed. They got a second phone call saying they were not approved.

Do not, I say to the Minister, try to explain to those people that there have been no cuts. Do not try to tell those people that everything is as it was or even better. They represents many dozens of other applicants in Atlantic Canada who were told and accepted in good faith that their applications were approved and that they could expect funding to be forthcoming. They went out and incurred certain expenditures and made certain plans. I am prepared to give the Minister the names of those two applicants. These two individual companies have been treated unfairly by the changes, by the cuts, by what the Minister characterizes as the reprofiling of the ACOA funding. These two would-be applicants are experiencing real hardship. They are absorbing expenditure losses, funding losses that they should not have had to absorb had the rules not changed in the middle of the game.

There are so many other things that need to be said, and it is nearly six o'clock. I guess this thing finishes as six, does it?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Pursuant to Standing Order 81(17), the proceedings of the motion have expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

In accordance with Standing Order 38, a motion to adjourn the House is deemed to have been moved.