

Privilege

Mr. Mazankowski: Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I get a little annoyed when I hear people talking about the subversion of Parliament when they indeed subvert the rules—

Ms. Copps: Oh, come on!

Mr. Mazankowski: —and disallow Parliament to function in a normal fashion. That is the inconsistency of the Opposition.

I have never heard such doubletalk. On the one hand they charge the Government with subverting the rules, with contempt of Parliament—

Mr. Broadbent: What about the ringing of the bells?

Mr. Mazankowski: —with affronting the institution. What has really happened is that the Opposition has denied Parliament the opportunity to deal with this.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): What a laugh.

Mr. Mazankowski: The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition has indeed blocked the parliamentary process by his actions last night—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): You can't be serious.

Mr. Mazankowski: —and the NDP. Then he comes into the House and talks about the sanctity of Parliament. In the same breath he turns his back on Parliament.

• (1240)

What nonsense, Mr. Speaker. He denied Parliament the opportunity to function as it should. Though he takes us back to 1265 in history, he does not have to go that far back.

As the House Leader outlined, we have the rather interesting situation where a former Minister of Finance, the Hon. Douglas Abbott, brought forth a Budget in a radio broadcast on November 17, 1947 when the House was not in session. Then he came back into the House on March 9, 1948 when the House was convened, and adopted the Budget.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition says that Parliament has the right to control expenditures, that Parliament has to approve the Budget.

An Hon. Member: Why have us here then?

Mr. Mazankowski: No one is denying Parliament that right under the situation that we have before us today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Just so it is abundantly clear to all Members of this House and all members of the Canadian public, we are not denying Parliament the opportunity to deal with this Budget.

Mr. Gauthier: You already did. You already have.

Mr. Mazankowski: That is absolutely wrong.

Mr. Gauthier: You did last night. You have failed. Listen to your mandate.

Mr. Tobin: You have failed. You should resign.

Mr. Mazankowski: That is nonsense and you know it. Parliament will still have the opportunity to pass judgement on this Budget, every line, every detail, every corresponding piece of legislation. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that, and so does the Leader of the NDP.

Ms. Copps: How many leakers do you have over there?

Mr. Mazankowski: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition talks about the primacy of Parliament, and then he and his colleagues and friends in the NDP do everything in their power to hijack it.

Mr. Riis: You stormed the chair. What about you ringing the bells?

Mr. Mazankowski: What nonsense. Squeal a little more. Squeal a little more. That is all you have been able to do on this issue.

Mr. Riis: You do not know what you are talking about.

Ms. Copps: You are the hijacker.

Mr. Marchi: Selective memory.

Mr. Riis: Storm the chair.

Mr. Mazankowski: The Government has taken every available course of action.

Mr. Riis: Except the right one.

Mr. Broadbent: Try the right one now.

Mr. Kaplan: We need a new Budget. Back to the drawing board. That is what you should do.

Mr. Mazankowski: The Hon. Members want the resignation of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Riis: You will never do that.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, may I say to you and the Leaders of the two opposition Parties and the Members of the House, you are not going to get his resignation.