

Supply—Agriculture

tactics, a charge which he frequently levels at other people. In any case, I do not wish to go along with that kind of jesting and I shall discuss more serious matters concerning agriculture because there are too many serious problems in that field. When you know farming and when you are a farmer's son, I can assure you that it is very amusing listening to a small town lawyer discuss that matter.

When I take a look at the amount of \$140,124,800 that the house will have to vote for the Department of Agriculture, it is quite natural for me, as a member from the province of Quebec, to wonder what part of that amount will go to my province, in comparison with the others.

Being the second largest province in confederation, Quebec will be called upon to pay its large share of the taxes required for the administration of that budget. Will it share proportionately in the few advantages that this budget, if it is well administered, could bring to the various provinces?

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member for Roberval is reading his speech verbatim. I am amazed to see a man such as he who pretends to know farming so well, being unable to make a speech without reading it, while a lawyer who is not supposed to know agriculture can make his observations without having to read them.

I ask that the hon. member for Roberval be called upon to order and stop reading a speech written by someone else. He should simply consult his notes as he proceeds, as I did myself.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I shall accept any abuse from this little braggart; but when the member for Lotbinière says I had my speech written by somebody else, I shall ask him to retract his words.

Mr. Choquette: I am ready to withdraw my words, Mr. Chairman, if the member for Roberval will stop reading his speech, so as to prove to us that it is really his own text he is reciting and not somebody else's.

Mr. Gauthier: Let the member for Lotbinière come and see my notes, Mr. Chairman, and he will find they are in my own handwriting. He himself refers to notes. I have here all necessary books to support my remarks. I have always spoken with notes. Everybody here, and even yourself, Mr. Chairman, speaks from notes. The remark made by the member for Lotbinière is only intended to pull down the members of the

[Mr. Gauthier.]

house and increase his own stature. It is not by trying to crush others that a man proves his greatness. It is through his own intellectual qualities that a man shows what he is worth. Now, I see that the hon. member for Lotbinière is lacking in this respect.

[Text]

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I am sure the hon. member for Roberval is well aware that the rules of this house do not permit him to read a speech. But if he is using notes to remind him of the things he wants to say, I would think he is quite in order and I would invite him to continue with his remarks.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I shall now be able to continue my remarks on agriculture.

Will the distribution of various services and subsidies be fairer to the province of Quebec than it was in the previous years? Those are urgent questions that we must ask during the discussion on these estimates. If we look at the last 30 years, they were not a success for the province of Quebec. As a matter of fact, the only increase we find in the estimates of the Department of Agriculture is the one in respect to taxes.

That is why in the last 30 years the income of Quebec farmers has been dwindling, to reach its lowest level last year.

So, we will demand more concrete action on the part of this government in order to correct a situation which constitutes rank discrimination against Quebec farmers.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) stated, and rightly so, that Quebec should enjoy a status different from other provinces in the confederation. Now that should apply especially to Quebec's agriculture.

That is why we were dismayed when they confined to oblivion the setting up of a department of agriculture for the east, the only thing that might have given back to Quebec this status that the Prime Minister admitted it should have.

I can tell you that I am greatly disappointed with the general and vague steps taken by this government in the field of agriculture.

Far from keeping his word, and living up to his promises, the Prime Minister has been even more remiss in his duties, since he gave the administration of ARDA, established for the development of farm lands, to the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé).

The member for Lotbinière has spoken earlier about a department of rural development merged with the Department of Forestry. It is still expressed in general terms,