

*The Address—Hon. J. Marchand*

the cabinet besides social affairs. It is an important problem, but do not overdo it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I merely say that—

[English]

**Mr. Peters:** So is every other major cabinet minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Shut up.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The minister has the floor.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I am merely trying to explain, Mr. Speaker, why we have been sensitive about that issue.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I think I invested enough in Canadian politics—and it is quite difficult, in Quebec, to do what we are doing—not to accept that such a statement, which affects some people's reputation, be simply interrupted by someone who does not like it. We do not like it either, Mr. Speaker, to have to do this job and go and fight everyday. Just because the hon. member for St.-Hyacinthe makes a statement which is absolutely unfounded does not mean that we are going to keep quiet and say: Here is a French Canadian who knows his way around, but who simply confirms in their prejudice those people on the other side of this House who have never understood this problem. I had rather listen to another one than him. In any event, he decided to play this part, let him try, but he will perhaps be put up with the same fate as his predecessors, in a party which never had a French Canadian leader.

If the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe came here for the only purpose of destroying those who have been fighting for federalism in Quebec, I suggest that he may return to the bench for the third time.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Do you think you are the saviour of this country?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Now, wait a minute. Yesterday they had fun while the Prime Minister was under attack; now it is not funny anymore. Well, here is a little bit of a speech that is not funny at all.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe attacked the Prime Minister; he even went as far back as the days of *Cité Libre*. He went pretty far to show how the Prime Minister had changed. How terrible. That seems true to me. In any case this is now the fourth or fifth time that these excerpts are quoted in this House. They were distributed at all political meetings. Everybody knows that. But he did not know, so he read his quotation.

At any rate, let us try and find out about the intellectual or ideological continuity of the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe. His background is a nice one, undoubtedly that of an upright man who was on the Bench. Premier Jean Lesage got him from the Bench to appoint him minister in the Liberal cabinet. He came to the liberal convention and was defeated by Mr. Robert Bourassa. He did not like it and he left the party. He was appointed to

[Mr. Peters.]

the bench by the Union Nationale under Mr. Jean-Jacques Bertrand. Political parties later held conventions. I do not know if the Creditistes held theirs first or if it was another party, but the name of the member for Saint-Hyacinthe was in the papers for at least a month. "Is he going to go, or is he not going to go"? He was keeping quiet. It would have been easy for him to give an answer; all he had to do was make a statement and everything would have been over. The leadership was up for grabs and he was interested. It is frightening to see in the first row so many people interested in leadership.

When the Union Nationale and the Cr ditistes held their conventions his name was in the papers for a month. One could read, "The next leader of . . ." He finally said no. Later, the whole thing started all over again with the federal election. Newspapermen phoned him to ask him, is it true that this time you are going to Ottawa? Not a word. And when the election was called he decided that the country had to be saved, that the problems were too serious.

If we had waited for another year he would have waited another year on the bench, and it is not more serious than that. If the problems were that serious he could have stayed in politics to fight. We sought refuge on the bench. That is his business but he has no business criticizing those who change their positions because he is the perfect model of a guy who never knew exactly what he wanted in life, except to be the leader of something.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition has nothing to worry about: whatever our position in this House, we will not swallow all the nonsense that may be uttered nor the injustices that may be done. We will give them tit for tat and when we can no longer do it, we will go elsewhere; it will mean that our place is not here anymore.

Besides, Mr. Speaker, if I were a member of the Progressive Conservative party I would ask myself serious questions. How is it that in the province of Quebec the Progressive Conservative party does not succeed as well as a very young party, almost without money, the Social Credit Party of Canada which gets three times as many votes? How can that be? How is it that there are not more Progressive Conservatives? When the hon. Leon Balcer left the party, he said: There is no place for French Canadians in that party. It is a thing they will remember. They will remember also Mr. Maurice Allard who said that there was no place for French Canadians. They will remember what the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) said when he left that party. In any case, he told me about it and I hope he will say it: that there was no place for French Canadians in that party. I am not happy about that, Mr. Speaker. I do not like hearing that and I wish there was as much place for French Canadians in the Progressive Conservative party as in all other parties.

However, I should like to comment the great statement from the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe: All parties are Canadian. They are Canadian but in what way? Who on the other side of the House is going to support seriously for instance our policy on bilingualism? That does not mean that all the regulations on it should be accepted. I know some people say there is discrimination. I agree but we are the first ones to correct them. I can say personally as a former trade unionist that there are English-speaking