

*Financial Administration Act*

could not consider the possibility of creating a tripartite commission to take over the administration of "Man and His World," to look and see if the exhibition could continue.

Mr. Speaker, the first answer was "no, we have no money". I did not give up and the Prime Minister finally answered that if the hon. member for Lotbinière agreed that no more aid be granted to his riding, that his constituents, those of Trois-Rivières, Bellechasse and all other constituencies receive no more aid, then perhaps government support for "Man and His World" could be considered.

When we ask him, for example, to provide assistance for any project, in Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, or any other provinces, it is always the same problem, a matter of finance.

Here is another interesting example, Mr. Speaker. There is in the constituency of Lotbinière an industry called "Caravane Val Bar" and which is located on the outer limits of a designated area. It employs over one hundred employees and will employ close to two hundred in a year to a year and a half from now, depending on government assistance. And so I communicated with different government officials, because the ministers are usually out of reach. But the officials answered that it was impossible to provide any kind of assistance for this industry because the government had no money. The same industry applies to the Quebec government; the answer is the same: no money.

Mr. Speaker, whether it turns to the municipal, provincial or federal governments, the answer is always the same: no money. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, with what do we administer?

When we look at what was handed to us a few days ago about the financial administration of the various departments, we realize all the waste taking place in every department, and especially in Crown corporations. I will come back to that subject before concluding my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, there is too much waste in departments, compared with our investments in municipalities in all the provinces, to really promote regional development.

A new department is going to be established in the near future, the Department of Regional Economic Development. What an auspicious name! I have here an editorial that appeared in *La Presse* on February 19, 1969 and which is very interesting in this respect, because it shows how financial administration

[Mr. Fortin.]

under the present government as well as under previous governments is sheer nonsense, since nobody understands anything about it. It is certainly not with Bill C-172, which is definitely insufficient, that such a situation will be corrected.

I am quoting Mr. Roger Champoux, an editorialist of *La Presse* who, on February 19 last, wrote an article entitled: "Operation Rescue" regarding the setting up of this new department to encourage further investment with a view to promoting development of areas in Canada which are underprivileged economically, socially, etc. Here it is:

For long we lived under the illusion that the country was so rich that its normal growth would never create serious problems. Well, we sing a different tune now!

And Mr. Champoux goes on to say:

The question is not one of poverty only, but of large areas whose economy is at a standstill... and where social circumstances are shameful. A rich country and a precarious economy:

I for one would say an inadequate administration. Mr. Champoux adds:

The situation is absurd. The new department will be concerned with "development". The word implies everything without stating the size of the problem to be dealt with, however.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we can expect great and excellent things from the setting-up of that new department. Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, if one considers the present administration in other departments, there is absolutely no guarantee that the new one will be skillful enough to cope with the increasing needs of the Canadian population and of the depressed areas which are becoming more and more numerous in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I said a while ago that I would conclude my remarks by touching upon the Crown corporations. That is a matter which we could discuss during a whole afternoon and which is also linked to the very obscure subject of financial administration. Very few hon. members venture on that ground, indeed, acquaint themselves with the financial administration of the Crown corporations, be they agencies or not, or mixed corporations.

Mr. Speaker, there is tremendous waste. I do not say that because we have a Liberal government; I have been saying it since Crown corporations have been created. The administration of these corporations is something to be ashamed of.