

Economic Conditions

it with the rest of Canada, but not the way the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, this specialist of confrontation, would like to impose on them. I have known the minister for a long time. My hon. colleagues from Quebec certainly remember, just as I do, that when Mr. Lévesque's party was elected in 1976, the Bourassa government was blamed for a cut of some 30 per cent of the milk quota, when it is a well-known fact that it is this government's bad administration which was responsible for the difficulties Quebec dairy producers had been experiencing.

Not a single Quebec Liberal had enough guts to tell Quebeckers that Mr. Bourassa had nothing to do with that, but this government which has been re-elected and whose days, I hope, are counted. Then, they complained about the PQ being in power in Quebec. I am ashamed of the actions and attitude of the Prime Minister and his ten-odd Quebec ministers; I even pity them once in a while. I know they will say there is only one hon. member out of 74 who does not share the general views. We certainly do not share the same views, Mr. Speaker. Thousands of Quebeckers think as I do this evening and they would like to say so in this House. Few Quebec members will complain about that bad administration, that incredible bankruptcy, that confrontation and the malicious objection of the Prime Minister. And I must say it over again, Quebec has not only been blamed and denied since 1976, but now Alberta and many other provinces are in the same situation.

It is a policy of confrontation, divide to rule and forget at the same time that the basic issue has been set aside in a country that wants to develop a climate likely to promote investments. We do not have to ask ourselves what is going on when those provincial governments are unable to find common ground with the Prime Minister, when this government takes unilateral decisions prejudicial to the interests of the provinces, decisions with direct consequences for the provinces. How can we create a propitious climate for investments? The solution is not found in interest rates alone. If we had a propitious climate for investment perhaps we could provide tax credits, direct substantial aid to those small wage earners who will be unable to meet the costs which they will be facing in the months to come. How could it be otherwise. The government is showing a complete lack of perspicacity in areas as important as the automobile industry and as a result of a lack of advanced research, the industry must now dismiss thousands of workers.

Can those Canadians still have confidence in this government? And some will blame it again on the United States! Mr. Speaker, there is a serious deficiency, and it is not always the neighbour's fault, and then again, I am not disproving the argument that it is hard to get rid of our neighbour's influence. With good management, we might have been financially able to help those who deserve to be helped. Let us not mention old age security benefits when they have been provided for 40 years now. This is where the problem lies.

We are raising serious matters today and the government is to blame. I want to stress that all this is due to the lack of a cohesive policy, of a policy likely to meet the aspirations of Canadians, and it is a failure. The Canadian people must wake up and realize that the government cannot solve that problem by means of clearly cosmetic measures.

In Quebec people are concerned also; I have to talk about my province. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources referred to it earlier, they mentioned it on the federal side and, of course, we heard the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussières), and perhaps many members from Quebec will take the floor. They too must have in their constituencies people who are concerned about this. But I remember that last December, a year ago, questions were asked in Quebec. I remember that in February, 74 hon. members from Quebec were sent to Ottawa, 68 per cent of Quebeckers were very pleased about that brave team, and we are still waiting for decisions.

Quebeckers are worried not only because of interest rates but because of some projects which are to be carried out. They might have created employment, Mr. Speaker. We are concerned about Gros-Cacouna, for example. Few hon. members broach the subject in my presence. My friends from Quebec do not often raise the matter. There is some concern about the settlement concerning the Laprade plan, a \$200 million settlement which is still outstanding. There is some concern about the Mirabel fiasco about which the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) proved extraordinarily weak, and I am also thinking of the decision to privatize Nordair. Every day Liberal members opposite come to tell me in private that I should kick this minister in the pants because he did not have the courage to stand up and has become a headache ever since he has been sitting on his Pepin-Robarts report. There is concern also about the delay announced regarding the construction of the Federal Business Development Bank building. There is concern about the dispute now going on and in the making concerning the economic summit to be held in Montreal with regard to the future of that city.

It may be worth reminding Quebeckers that with 22 Liberal members for Montreal, a prime minister, a few ministers, and some ordinary members, 22 out of 22, Montreal has achieved a fantastic record over these past 13 years; it has lost its status as Canada's metropolis. This is the certificate of achievement I would like to grant to these people. The Postmaster-General (Mr. Ouellet) is certainly going to call me a nobody because I have the guts to tell things that should be said, Mr. Speaker. I think you mean to tell me that my time is up. I will therefore end my speech at once by reminding our friends from Quebec that instead of criticizing our mortgage tax credit because we had not included tenants, the good news Quebeckers got yesterday was that the minister declared that he was postponing for two years the housing allowances and not only did they