

The Address—Mr. Malépart

I now conclude my speech, Mr. Speaker. My time is up. If the Minister of State for Youth is willing to fight for the young people of Canada, he will have my support, but if he does nothing for them, he will hear from me.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

Questions and comments. The Hon. Minister of State for Youth (Mr. Charest).

Mr. Charest: Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment briefly and then put a few specific questions to my colleague. First of all, he referred to the election of our Speaker (Mr. Fraser) and I would like to know—But first, I should point out that, today, the Hon. Member was as good as ever. He was passionate, vibrant and also spoke in a loud voice.

However, you must remember one thing, and I am sure that those who are listening know what I mean, because they are reasonable people. How can you rise and talk for 20 minutes and dismiss absolutely everything as negative? Nothing positive in two whole years? It was a passionate and interesting speech, granted, but those who are watching us, at home, must be wondering: Something is wrong here, it does not make sense. This is not 1940. People are smarter than that. This is not 1800. They are listening and they are watching us, and distinctions must be made.

He talked about the Quebec Liberal Party which he admires a great deal, and we also have a lot of respect for that Party. I do not know whether he is going to give us his views on the so-called “boubou macoutes” operation. He did not mention it yet. However, associations he claims he supports were not exactly in favour. He respects the Quebec Minister of Agriculture and we share that respect. Will he talk to the Minister about the fact that they have cut school milk two days out of five? That they are taking milk away from children? Knowing how close he is to children, I am sure he is already planning a trip to Quebec City to demonstrate on the Hill and demand an immediate stop to this. We are going to watch him on that. If he wants our co-operation, I guess he will ask for it, and we will see whether we can help.

But there is more than that, and concerning the election of our Speaker for whom we in any case have the full respect he deserves, I do not know whether he would tell us—I hope he is not leaving—I do not know whether he will tell us, we will see whether he will answer the question because we are curious to know—whether he stayed here right until the Speaker was elected, because I imagine the absent are always in the wrong. The same rule applies to everybody, perhaps not in his case he will tell us, but being such a staunch supporter of democracy he will tell us whether he was here for the election of the Speaker, for how many ballots and the final vote, whether he came to vote as he wanted to do to get the results he was hoping for.

The Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) will simply have to set the record straight for us

because we on this side are getting somewhat contradictory messages from the other side. I took part in a television interview with my colleague from Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) and your own colleague from the riding of Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) who said that, as far as he is concerned, the Speech from the Throne is a good one. You used a word—I am not sure whether it is against the rules or not, but never mind—unless I am mistaken you used the word “a piece of trash”. It sounds like a very strong word to me. Yet your colleague from your own Party said that it was a good speech. Help us understand what you and your Party are saying, because we on this side and other Canadians are not too sure what you mean.

One last word to the Hon. Member. We admire your eloquence, your imposing style and everything else, even though the approach is quite negative, but finally, Mr. Speaker, perhaps his name ought to be added to the list of would-be leaders of the Quebec federal Liberal Party, that is the latest trend—

An Hon. Member: Another one.

Mr. Charest: —another one, and if that does not work out he can always launch himself into a new career as a professional wrestler, I think it would be just about right for him.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, as you may have noticed, no one was very impressed by the Minister. I have the impression he is going to get back to the Speaker's chair pretty soon, since he didn't have a clue when we were discussing the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Rossi: He will never learn!

Mr. Malépart: As far as being negative is concerned, if the Minister would stop running around in his limousine and talking to his chauffeur, as if that were the only important thing in life, and if he would look at the latest polls: sixty per cent of the people disagree with your Government, only about 20 per cent agree and 30 per cent are undecided . . . So I have the impression, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister . . . I am not surprised he doesn't want to wait for an answer, considering how this makes him look.

Furthermore, regarding the Speech from the Throne, what I said was that anybody could write a nice story, and I was comparing the 1986 and 1984 Speeches from the Throne, and talking about how Canadians had been betrayed by the 1984 Speech. Is the Minister prepared to say it is not true that in 1984 his Government promised social justice and then went on to cut indexation of Old Age Security benefits? Is he prepared to say that isn't true? Can he say that? He isn't afraid to lie?

Mr. Speaker, about de-indexation of family allowances: Is the Minister going to say that is false? I hope he doesn't have the Prime Minister's disease. You know, people don't trust the Prime Minister's word, and I just hope it isn't contagious in their party, Mr. Speaker.