

Borrowing Authority

They will say: "As for us, we shall not follow the example of the Prime Minister; we shall not mislead you; we can tell you to your face that we shall vote against you." This is the attitude of the public. This is how people are reacting. I have the opportunity to travel to many constituencies in Quebec and the rest of Canada and this has been the reaction of the Canadian population, whether we are speaking about senior citizens, young people, workers or even employers' associations. They are totally dissatisfied with this Government, especially because of its lack of honesty and its failure to achieve anything or to put together a coherent policy to meet the needs of Canadians.

• (1310)

I would also like to touch upon another matter that directly affects Quebecers, and again we know what commitment the Prime Minister and this Government made during the last elections and in the Speeches from the Throne that were delivered here. In all cases it was the same scenario—with one hand on his heart and the other on the Bible, the Prime Minister said he was going to do all that was needed for Quebec to agree to the Canadian Constitution in an honourable and dignified way. So much for the rhetoric. But what are the facts? The proposals put on the table by this Government, Madam Speaker, intended to take away existing rights, important powers that confirm Quebec's distinctive nature and specificity—that of selecting immigrants and managing human resources, immigration-wise.

That was the first time the proposal was put on the table, this Government's proposal not to enshrine in the Constitution, as proposed by the Liberal Party, the Cullen-Couture Agreement which granted powers to Quebec and the right of veto in respect of immigrant selection. But the same may be said about spending powers—the relevant legislation is of great concern to us—borrowing, spending powers. Again this Government, contrary to its commitments, has laid on the table a proposal such that the Quebec Government has not only to turn it down but also to refuse to take part in further constitutional negotiations, including those on native people that will be held over the coming weeks, because the Government will not recognize financial compensation for new social programs.

Here again we have another example of this Prime Minister's and this Government's attitude towards our senior citizens, the sick with respect to whom all Hon. Members will remember the 10 per cent tax on drugs, the young who had some of their programs slashed without added monies to help youth, workers, Quebecers—this Government acted contrary to its commitments, let alone honouring them.

With respect to Quebec matters, I have before me two letters sent to all Members here by the Hon. Marc-Yvan Côté, the Quebec Minister of Transport, concerning those bills. Concerning those two bills, my colleague the transportation critic, the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), has tried to convince this Tory Government and make it aware, to wake

up the caucus of Quebec Tory Member and tell them that those bills will have a negative impact on Quebec as a whole, whether in the area of rail transportation, air transportation or trucking, those proposals... And I am convinced the Tory Members again will not respond to that invitation from the Quebec Minister of Transport.

In Quebec, and I will conclude on that, Madam Speaker, there are 17 unsettled issues either because there has been no response or the response has not been satisfactory.

Now let me list them to conclude: the Montreal East end issues, the shipyards, the Matane pulp and paper mill, the Desbiens plant, the GM plant in Boisbriand, the Melchers' employees, the banking centre, the aerospace agency, equalization payments, grants, immigration assistance, the refugees, the rail system in Quebec, the footwear, textile and clothing industries, also the question of discrimination against potato producers and the denial of grants to help Quebec clean up the St. Lawrence River. And I could go on, Madam Speaker. My time has expired, but it is my hope, because I do not despair, that some day we will find at least one—I am not asking for 10 or 40, but at least one—Tory Member from Quebec who will wake up and roll up his sleeves, before he loses his seat, and save Quebec's interests.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Questions or comments. Debate. The Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent) has the floor.

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Thank you. I should like to comment briefly on the remarks made by my colleague the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart). I wonder if he is afraid, Madam Speaker, for he is leaving... May I begin by saying that good management is good government. And to govern means—

Mr. Malépart: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie rises on a point of order.

Mr. Malépart: Madam Speaker, it is to tell the stupid Member who has just risen that he cannot mention whether someone is absent or present. But just to prove to him that I am not afraid of a nincompoop, I will stay and listen to his nonsense.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I am sure that the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) did not really mean to use these epithets in the case of the Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent). I am sure he is sorry and apologizes to the House. The Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent) has the floor.

Mr. Vincent: Is he apologizing, Madam Speaker?

Mr. Della Noce: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.