

*Agricultural Stabilization Act*

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is the first time I rise in this House to speak on a Bill which deals with the farmers.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Malépart:** I think that everyone knows that I represent an urban constituency. Why did I rise this evening to speak on a Bill whose purpose is to defend Quebec farmers? Yesterday evening, at the door of the House of Commons, members of the UPA came to see me and told me: "Mr. Malépart, you have to join the battle for Quebec farmers!" I told myself that it had to be serious if representatives of urban centres were being asked to become involved in a battle to defend farmers.

**Mr. Lapierre:** The Conservatives are not there!

**Mr. Malépart:** That is true. My colleague for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) has given one of the reasons for this. Unfortunately, the Progressive Conservative Members in Quebec are mostly from rural areas and they are behaving like cowards, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Jelly-fish!

**Mr. Malépart:** Second, these people told me: "This will affect your constituency because food prices will increase and the low- and middle-income people of Sainte-Marie who will be the ones to pay the bill.

Another reason why I wanted to speak about this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is that I do not understand the reasoning of these Progressive Conservative Members who should have learned a lesson today from the Official Opposition. One month ago, this whole gang of Quebec Conservative jelly-fish, the 58 silent Members, said after the Budget: This is excellent for senior citizens. Today, they all looked like dummies. They all looked humiliated, and once more, the representatives of Quebec are telling these Members: Wake up, you have found the rest-rooms in Parliament, get down to the issues which concern us, stand up! Mr. Speaker, since September 4, Quebec has been ripped off four times by this Progressive Conservative Government Mr. Speaker, today—

**Ms. Jacques:** Come on!

**Mr. Malépart:** The Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Ms. Jacques)—

**An Hon. Member:** She never speaks in this House!

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, since September 4, how many promises have been made by the Prime Minister to Quebec men and women throughout the province? Yet, this same Government is shamelessly deceiving the population. Are we going to have to find another Mrs. Denis in the farming community? Who will come on Parliament Hill to shake up the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) to listen to us.

**An Hon. Member:** It is very sad!

**Mr. Malépart:** The Minister of Agriculture does not understand Quebecers. He saw his Minister of Finance eat crow today and reverse his decision. I can tell the Minister of Agriculture not to depend on the representatives of Quebec in his own party, because if ever the Quebec farmers, the men and women from Quebec, come here, the Minister of Agriculture will have to do what the Minister of Finance did today and retreat, Mr. Speaker!

Quebec was ripped off by the tax, by de-indexation and by the \$2.5 billion giveaway to oil multinationals to create jobs in the West and increase consumer taxes in Quebec! The housing sector in Quebec has been ripped off as far as the RRAP is concerned and these 58 silent Progressive Conservatives did nothing! You are aware of this, Mr. Speaker! Sherbrooke will become a subsidiary of Longueuil for social housing! Trois-Rivières will become a subsidiary of the City of Laval! Fortunately, Montreal is represented mostly by Liberals who hold together and do not lose the Budget battle.

Mr. Speaker, I could list all the commitments made by the Prime Minister which have been forgotten since September 4. For one month, we kept after him, we gave him a little lesson, we shook him up just a bit, and today he retreated, but he does not know how hot it will be next fall. I have been a Member of the Quebec National Assembly. At 12, I went on strike as an altar boy. I shook up the parish priest, and I can tell you that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise), if we get involved, will be shaken up and will realize that we Quebecers know how to go about all that.

● (2000)

Mr. Speaker, there is something else. Last week, our very dear Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the bright kid from Baie Comeau, the life citizen of Westmount, will meet Quebec's Premier. And he solemnly swears, as he can do so well with his grave and mellow voice, to recognize Quebec's special status. He goes along saying whatever comes to his mind. To wit: his Members from Quebec, with him taking the lead, have said concerning agriculture, and it is written in black and white, in an editorial, that Quebec farmers want a special status. Why not support that amendment?

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister—this is a childhood sickness, do not worry about it, there are ways to cure that—says anything, uses any word, but in actual fact, it is Quebecers who are had. Luckily, Quebecers can count on my colleagues from Richmond-Wolfe (Mr. Tardif) and Shefford (Mr. Lapierre), who have expertise in that area and who know how to defend the industry.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this would be a golden opportunity for the Prime Minister and his Conservative