

The Budget—Mr. Dufresne

rivers, which keep giving off their sickening stench, a constant hazard to the health of our fellow citizens.

What is the Prime Minister waiting for before he takes action? This is a most urgent problem and I have no doubt that if the mayor of Quebec city is here in Ottawa today, it is for the purpose of asking that the unemployed be given work. Once and for all, let the Prime Minister rid us of those open air dumps and sewers, which are a shame and a disgrace to Quebec city, and also, I repeat, a constant danger to public health.

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member uses parliamentary language when he says that it is unworthy of the Prime Minister to do this or that. The hon. member said a moment ago that it was a crime for the Prime Minister to act in such a way. I wonder if all this is parliamentary language.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): It is quite indecent.

Mr. Dufresne: I have never said that the Prime Minister was a criminal. I did not mean either that he was unworthy. All I said, and say again—I hope the minister is listening closely this time—was that, if the Prime Minister's residence happened to be near those foul sewers, in his county, instead of on Quebec heights, on Grande-Allee, in Quebec South county, he would soon realize that it is unworthy of a prime minister to let human beings inhale this noxious stench.

Mr. Lesage: That is what I mean.

Mr. Dufresne: I did not say he was. I mean that if he were there, he would realize that.

Mr. Lesage: It's a smelly interpretation.

Mr. Dufresne: If the minister were residing in that area, instead of the attractive part of the city, on Citadel heights, he would find out that the smell is not altogether pleasant and he would probably make representations to the cabinet and ask the Prime Minister, on behalf of his electors, to rid them of these open sewers.

Once again, I want to state the general feeling of our workers. These good workers are not asking for handouts or for direct relief from the government. They have inherited from their forefathers their industry and they want to pass it on to their children and their children's children. They want to have the satisfaction of earning their daily

[Mr. Dufresne.]

bread, and that of their family, by the sweat of their brow and by making use of those working abilities which Providence has given them.

Perhaps I have been a little harsh on the government and the Prime Minister, but I feel it is about time someone stood up in this house and spoke on behalf of the hungry. This is no time for flowery speeches.

Some hon. Members: Ha! ha!

Mr. Dufresne: Mr. Speaker, do you hear those intelligent guffaws from representatives of people who are now writing them hundreds of letters each day, asking for something to eat. This is no laughing matter.

Mr. Lesage: It is permissible to laugh.

Mr. Dufresne: To me, those guffaws of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources are ludicrous and unseemly. One would think he had taken leave of his senses.

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I don't consider it unseemly to laugh at a member who is having a good time indulging in clownishness in this house.

Mr. Dufresne: I thank the hon. minister for his statement. At a time when the government is being asked to feed the hungry, and to undertake work projects so that there might be bread on the tables of the needy, the hon. member for Quebec West is said to be indulging in clownishness. I take due note of that remark by the minister, and I hope that newspapers in the province will feature in bold headlines those very words of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources who, unfortunately, for a moment, has just lost his bearings. For the gratification of my hon. friend, I will merely say that I have perhaps been somewhat hard on the government and the Prime Minister—

Mr. Boisvert: Not at all!

Mr. Dufresne: Not too much?

Mr. Boisvert: No, no. Keep it up!

Mr. Dufresne: I am glad to know that the hon. member for Nicolet did not feel involved.

Mr. Lesage: Knowing where it came from—

Mr. Dufresne: But, aware as I am that it is time something was done about it, I am speaking on behalf of the hungry. This is not a time for rhetoric—and I hope I have not been guilty of any—but it is a time for action, and I made these remarks knowing