

Government Orders

tees, if the data were too rigid, we could, as much as for spending limits, make sure that issues would appear.

This is a false debate. A fundamental question must be answered here. Do we belong to a country? Do we want to break that country? Canadian citizens, both from Quebec and from the other provinces, are adult enough, smart enough and confident enough of their views and of their sense of belonging to be able to answer a question if a referendum was necessary.

Too much interference seems to be the real danger here. If we start setting all kind of standards, we start interfering with people's basic human values. This debate demands a renewed awareness of where we come from, of our family values and our roots. The umbrella principle as applied to the yes and no sides is so restrictive that it would prevent individuals from making use of their individual freedoms and the freedoms of the groups to which they belong.

In Quebec, in the present as in the past, a great deal has been said about the evils of money. Parti Quebecois members repeat *ad nauseam* that money leads to the destruction of our moral fibre. I maintain that money is not necessarily associated with negative or evil behaviour. A person can be wealthy and at the same time be capable of doing good, while people with less money do not necessarily have a monopoly on virtue. I think this insistence upon restrictions, and at this point I want to get back to my remarks on sophisms, this sometimes cavalier tendency to associate money and evil is unacceptable. In fact, the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean was a case in point yesterday.

An hon. member: As usual.

Mr. Hogue: In the course of his speech, he mentioned that the money could be used in such a way that members of the Bloc Quebecois or separatists, as they are commonly referred to, would have trouble making themselves heard.

When a cause is just, people can always make themselves heard, and I repeat that anyone who thinks that Canadian citizens and Quebec francophones will let

themselves be bought underestimates the intelligence, feelings and moral fibre of the people of this country. It is insulting, and that is why I am grateful for this opportunity to rise in the House and reject this connection out of hand. My family has been in Quebec, in Canada, in our country, for 12 generations. This is an insult to the integrity of a French Canadian, an insult to the integrity of a Canadian or a Quebecer, period.

I sat with our colleague from Papineau—Saint-Michel on the Bélanger-Campeau commission, and we all know what happened there. While the commission was sitting, there were people who were working very hard to advance a cause. However, aside from these efforts to identify certain objectives and implement them, there were also discussions taking place behind closed doors. There was a lot going on in secret. One of the vice-presidents, who ostensibly did not take sides, had already taken a position. Another vice-president is now using all kinds of money to try and get a movement going. Apparently what is sauce for the goose is not necessarily sauce for the gander.

Before I finish, I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak in this House in my mother tongue, to do so with pride and to tell those on the other side of the House who are trying to sabotage our efforts that since I came to Ottawa, I have had both the privilege and the opportunity to speak French and to be just as good a Canadian as anyone else in this country.

• (1830)

You see how bad tempered and vituperative they get when we start talking about human values, Mr. Speaker?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you right away that when he rose earlier, the government Whip made false statements.

First, he said that no member from the Bloc sat on the referendum bill committee. I would like to tell you—because I want to re-establish the facts—that several members of the Bloc were present. Our members went even though we are denied the right to vote. They tell