

Interim Supply

definite reason because both T.C.A. and the government have refused to give any explanation. It is well known that the parliamentary committee which considers the budgets and financial statements of the C.N.R. and T.C.A. has never been able to secure from the respective presidents of those two corporations any explanation of the reasons which motivated previous decisions.

In fact, I challenge the committee to try to draw from the president of Trans-Canada Air Lines the true reasons why he accepted the DC-9 rather than the Caravelle aircraft.

Now I am telling you, that if technical, economic and security reasons favour the DC-9 rather than the other aircraft, the Quebecers will be the first to accept this decision, if the reasons are obvious, the difference between the two aircraft is appreciable, and if it is, moreover, proved that Trans-Canada Air Lines arrived at the best possible decision.

That, Mr. Chairman, was simply to explain what I was saying a few moments ago. If confederation has reached this point today, the respective governments, provincial as well as federal must take the blame. The federal government is not the only one to deserve blame, nor are the provincial governments; they all made the same mistake of playing at politics; and whereas they all were elected to represent the people's interests, they hastened, as soon as they were put in power, to safeguard their own political and the financial interests.

As long as the problem of the economic situation is not solved, I fully believe that it is mere illusion to think that we can settle the tax problem.

When there is a question of moving the taxation basis, of dividing the federal government pie, in order to increase or decrease the quota of each province, we have a good time and give our voters and the provincial premiers a good time because we are giving them some hope. But, the problem indeed remains; our liabilities will always by far exceed our means, and we will have to pay interests exceeding our income. Whether there are 10 isolated units or a single one it will still be "You-know-who", who will have to pay for the breakage, and who will indeed have to tighten his belt. Whether it is for the federal government or the provincial or municipal governments, the one to suffer will be the worker, the small wage earner.

As usual, those who suffer hardship in depressions, as a result of our governments having failed to take this problem seriously, are those same small wage earners, who become the leaven of revolutions, which brings about conditions like those we have seen in colonial countries in the last few years, and which may also develop here. For

we are now in a colonial country; we are "colonized" by high finance, by people without soul, who have forgotten every Christian principle. It will therefore be absolutely impossible to find a solution for the present situation, if the problem remains unchanged.

I will stop here, Mr. Chairman. I merely wanted to express my opinion and, perhaps, that of my colleagues on confederation. Indeed, confederation will be strong inasmuch as each of its components is strong and inasmuch as it can play the role which was entrusted to it by the provinces when they endorsed the principles set out in the British North America Act. When the provinces have obtained satisfaction, they will renew with the federal government their acceptance of their role. Then will we have co-operation between the provinces and especially between the two great races which form Canada. Then, in my opinion, we will be justified to say that we have reduced tension in our country as we wish to reduce it in the world.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, at a time when federal-provincial relations on fiscal matters are being discussed in Ottawa, we hear statements in the house about the fiscal policy and the existence of two cultures, of two languages which make up the very basis of our country.

We also heard about centralization, and when the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) suggests, for instance, that the federal government should not withdraw from the taxation field with regard to health, he should go further and include the fields of social security, education, highways, in short, all other fields in which the provinces are playing a prominent part at present.

Mr. Chairman, it is not through centralization that we shall attain the highest standard of emancipation, either cultural, personal or individual, in Canada.

The federal government controls fields of taxation that properly belong to provincial governments. In the last few days, that is, since Tuesday, all provincial premiers are in Ottawa conferring with representatives of the federal government. Discussions are being held on fiscal matters, on tax sharing, on the distribution of money that is collected from Canadian taxpayers. Then, when provincial premiers return to their respective provinces, they will still be faced with contributions to be made to municipalities or school boards. All this constitutes an enormous problem, almost a deadlock, because no attempt is being made to strike at the root of the evil.

The governments merely talk about tax matters and the other day, more exactly yesterday, the Quebec delegation suggested that the federal government should give the