

was born and raised in the shadow of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthplace and bring to the House an accent similar to that great statesman—with full apologies to the interpreter. Just console yourself with the fact that I cannot speak French, because then you would really be in trouble, although I admit it is a rare gift indeed to be able to express oneself as eloquently as the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) did last Friday.

In that speech he reminded me of the village bully who also had the only football in our poor area. If we did not play by his rules, he picked up the ball and went home. It may be of interest to some hon. members to know that I never learned how to play football. I do, however, recognize something sinister cooking when the minister states, "If the atmosphere does not get healthier, I don't think we will be here very long". This is either a game of blackmail or a frantic plea to get on the post office calendar mentioned by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin) as "Saint Jean Marchand".

Much has been said about the implementation of the Official Languages Act. Let me say briefly and with all the sincerity I can muster, if the real reason for the bill was to keep Quebec in confederation, then in my opinion it is the wrong policy being pursued for the right reason. Confederation has to be preserved by other means. The only way I know to preserve it is by having all hon. members playing the game by the rules set down by this House. Surely ethnic background, religion, language or political affiliations can take a back seat to this crucial but worthwhile task.

Now, back briefly to Hamilton Mountain. The problems besetting the riding, I would say, are similar to those of other urban ridings; problems such as unemployment, concerns of the general management of the economy and the high cost of serviced land. Although we have a high percentage of home owners compared to the city proper, we have little or no heavy industry. We do, however, have a regional airport which the transport department wants to expand and which many constituents would like moved out of the area.

The many letters I receive also express concern about our penal system, and in light of the fact that the Mary Nelles kidnapping made the news yesterday, accompanied by the kidnapping of the wife of the mayor of North York, I think it appropriate to mention the rehabilitation and parole system. Here is a case where four of the criminals served approximately 18 months of a five-year sentence. The reason for their parole: they were rehabilitated.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that these bandits were rehabilitated the day they were caught. But what about the deterrent? The ringleader, who is awaiting parole after serving three years of a 15-year sentence, has been having a ball running a ski resort in Bracebridge. I can only assume that the reason he is still in custody is that he does not want to leave. And who would? What other position would reward him with six weeks' holidays a year?

I try to allay the fears of the people by telling them things will get better with the new Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand). They couldn't get much worse. However, I do not want to be too critical of the former Solicitor General, the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer), as I

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understand he is a lover of Scottish people. Rumours persist that after last year's prison break from Kingston penitentiary, he was going around whistling that famous Scottish tune, "Will ye no come back again".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Beattie:** What faith, what confidence in the perfectability of criminals! My constituents also write to me about capital punishment, an emotional issue on which I hope to speak during the debate. I also get letters, Mr. Speaker, about the punishment of capital. By that I mean the capital of those whose fixed incomes are rapidly being eroded by rampant inflation. I contend that more consideration should be given to people who have gone without many of life's luxuries in order to live the evening of their days in modest comfort.

• (1740)

I would say there is a great community spirit on "The Mountain" and many people work hard on various projects. The one foremost in my mind is the work done by volunteers in the fight against that killer disease, cancer. How much time will pass before we gain dominion over this disease? How many more lives will be lost? How many more will be blighted?

There are statistics, of course. It has been said that we North Americans are enamoured of those neat, bloodless figures. I shall not cite them here, impressive though they are, as humanity is not a game of numbers. Medical research, on the other hand, is very much a game of numbers. Increments, accidents and chance are still very applicable words to describe the processes of scientific research. But we have also learned that by careful organization, by systematic approaches, by co-ordinated efforts, by employing more highly qualified people and using more sophisticated equipment we can greatly affect the outcome of research. All of which is just another way of saying that the outcome of research is today as much dependent upon money as it is upon mentality. Money may not be the root of all progress in science, but it does possess the miraculous power to compress time. And we have at last begun to realize that time is what we are fighting against. Time is the enemy.

Now, what kinds of research are we going to buy? The priorities obsess our best minds. What comes first—population control or expansion of food supply; prevention of killer diseases or solutions to serious urban crises? Establishing a meaningful system of priorities in medical research is well-nigh impossible. Millions of dollars poured into one promising direction could yield nothing, while relatively modest sums expended in some other area might well bring about a significant advance. And there is always the possibility that one scientist may come up with something that turns all the priorities topsy-turvy, requiring an immediate shift of both money and manpower into some other hitherto unexplored avenue. Yet despite these obstacles, a massive assault on cancer deserves our support; for if it is successful, the same all-out approach might then become our means of dealing with other great scourges of mankind, medical, social and environmental.