

The Constitution

the constitution seven or eight years ago. Of course, he is now a minister. He spoke for instance of his deep concern for Francophones outside Quebec, and I remember that not so long ago, this same government and this same minister refused the Fédération des Francophones Hors Québec, a mechanism which they suggested to us when we were in power. Within a few weeks, we had accepted this mechanism through which the Fédération des Francophones Hors Québec would be able to take part in the development of policies which could affect them. The present government rejected this mechanism off-handedly and still refuses to provide the federation with sufficient funds to maintain proper offices to do its own propaganda, in a manner of speaking. The minister spoke about his interest in Francophones outside Quebec, but he omitted to tell the people about this decision which goes against Francophones outside Quebec and about this delay which is unfair for these Francophones.

An hon. Member: What have you done in Quebec? Nothing!

An hon. Member: Where were you?

Mr. La Salle: I shall tell you where I was later.

An hon. Member: It is easy to see that winter is coming in Quebec.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, it is the first time that we hear them; let them release their frustrations. Mr. Speaker, we are certainly going to hear this evening a voice from Quebec, but it will be a very different voice from that of the Liberals on the other side. We shall hear things said by someone who speaks on behalf of thousands of Quebecers because those hon. members opposite do not do so. Of course, we shall hear comments which I hope will also be heard by thousands of Canadians. And I would certainly not want, especially during this debate, to give Canadians the impression that 74 out of 75 members think the same.

Under the circumstances, I shall of course speak on behalf of the provincial party leaders in Quebec. Our friends opposite have not spoken about the position of Mr. Le Moignan, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Lévesque. Just as was the case concerning the sales tax, the National Assembly opposes unanimously the proposed resolution.

An hon. Member: Get yourself elected to the National Assembly!

Mr. La Salle: What I have just said cannot be denied.

● (2100)

I could not refer to the comments made by my friends opposite, completely subjugated as they are by a man who has an artificial vision of Canada and who tries to sell us an artificial Canada, I mean the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). From the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien)—I will come

back later to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin)—to all the others, they are a group of sheep hiding behind the Prime Minister about a vision that he has had in mind for years and I shall speak mostly about him because it is not the Liberal party that presented a resolution, that invented that resolution but a man determined to find an acceptable solution with the provinces.

An hon. Member: What is the word?

Mr. La Salle: And I will prove it. We have been complaining for 53 years. I was listening to Liberal members. In the last 53 years we have not succeeded in finding a solution with the provinces. Let us go back over the last 15 years when the present Prime Minister promised to amend our constitution when he came to Ottawa with two other doves that have flown to gentler climes. And 15 years later he has yet to succeed in reaching agreement with the provinces. Considering the spirit of the constitution and the fact that he almost dreamed up the present failure himself what allows him to think that he can act unilaterally?

An hon. Member: No right!

Mr. La Salle: No right, but the Prime Minister demonstrates that after 15 years of efforts his idea has failed completely and he cannot reach an agreement with the provinces. Perhaps we ought to wonder whether we should change the premiers or the Prime Minister of Canada himself.

An hon. Member: Change the Prime Minister.

Mr. La Salle: So, Mr. Speaker, I come back to that man, as I said I cannot talk about the Liberal party because they are behind him, they are subjugated by him and it is not the philosophy of the Liberal party, never has a Liberal delegation given a mandate to a prime minister on such a vision, it is his own. Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, while bombs were blowing up here and there in Quebec, Pierre Laporte was murdered by young terrorists who considered themselves above the law and tried to force upon us their own political ideal. Today, in October, 1980, under the pretence of a quite artificial urgency, a 60-year-old Quebecker, the Prime Minister of Canada, declares himself an absolute ruler and tries to go beyond the constitution which gives us a political tradition. He hides a time bomb right in the heart of the country and gets ready to murder the Canadian federation, this marvellous achievement of the political genius of our fathers.

When the hon. member for I do not know what constituency tells me that he was not elected by 200 votes, I, for one, was not elected on the coat-tails of the Prime Minister, for instance. You will understand that as a Canadian and as a Quebecker, I cannot agree with such an initiative. Therefore, I am prepared to keep fighting, Mr. Speaker, against this bid for power which would lead, should it succeed, to the disruption of