

The Address—Mr. Lavoie

something else than building prisons. Of course, we have no choice in this matter at the present time, but, in the near future, we should also invest in our young people to prevent delinquency. On the long term, we could avoid having today's young people turn into the prisoners and the inmates of a strange type of university tomorrow and turn them instead into responsible adults, which would be cheaper for the people, more productive and more advantageous for the taxpayer.

In my riding, through the Canada Works Program, for which, by the way, I would like to thank the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) for the sum of \$819,000 granted to my constituency which has been used to create 21 projects and I do not know how many jobs as I did not take the time to count them, we have succeeded in developing two projects for the prevention of delinquency among young people. I hope that following these two pilot projects developed under Canada Works, the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Fox) will be able to do more to develop additional projects of this type which would benefit our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to raise another point. I will try to be brief because the other one that I want to mention is also very important. I am very pleased with the television broadcasting of the debates of the House of Commons. However, I deplore the fact that I cannot be recognized by the Chair more often. When I was sitting on the other side of the House, I was recognized at least once a week. Since the debates have started to be broadcast, and even before, there were always four or five members on this side of the House to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that our proceedings are televised and that the people may watch what is going on in the House, but they should not see the opposition members only. In my opinion, any member, whether in opposition or in government, has the same rights and privileges, and I think that someone in the House will eventually have to correct that situation, because it is inconceivable, otherwise democracy will suffer in Parliament. Every member has been democratically elected by the people to Parliament, so everyone has the right to speak. Not all at the same time, of course.

I realize the Chair does not have an easy task, but at any rate it is important to reach an agreement at some time in order that my colleagues as well as I, who have questions of public interest to discuss, may raise them in the House. Before television came to the House, we used to put questions. Otherwise, opposition members will likely lie shamelessly to Quebecers and tell them: You know, in Ottawa, there are 60 Liberal members and they never rise or speak up. That is what they will say as they always have, but now that I am on this side, I understand the situation. And I understand it so well, Mr. Speaker, that I feel that this electronic medium is too powerful to be used improperly. It must be used to inform people and to give every member an opportunity to be heard.

[Mr. Lavoie.]

● (1552)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It is with reluctance that I intervene to ask the hon. member that if he has any remarks or propositions to make to the Speaker, with all due respect to the Speaker, perhaps he should do it privately with the Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Lavoie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, I want to talk about national unity. I will be brief because I know my colleagues have already covered that subject. But there is one important thing concerning national unity that I want to talk about.

I want to blame the government of Quebec for depriving Quebecers of amounts of money that will be provided by the federal government, and let me explain. I will talk of the Canada Assistance Plan and old people. I have a file here. I am not telling you lies. An elderly person whose home burned down—which comes under provincial jurisdiction—is not entitled to assistance because there is a word in the act called "assistance". I want to give you another example: in the area of housing, section 44 (1)(b) of the National Housing Act allows the provinces to sign agreements with the profit corporations and cooperatives. The government of Quebec does not sign agreements. It is already independent now.

Mr. Speaker, it is unthinkable that a government should deprive Quebecers of amounts of money belonging and available to them. I find that unthinkable and that is why I blame the government of Quebec for that. I think I do not have much time left, Mr. Speaker, so I will conclude by saying quite simply that this country was built by our forefathers and we are here to replace them and hand it down to our children. I think that we do not have the right to let it be divided, and I am one of those, Mr. Speaker, who will fight right to the end to keep this country united, as my father stood in the battlefield for our country, Canada. Mr. Speaker, I will conclude on the following note. The Prime Minister said, and I agree with him: The time to make a choice and decide has come, we cannot afford the luxury of another decade of indecision.

[English]

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I enter the throne speech debate. At the outset, I congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I may not agree with the policies or principles about which they spoke, but I admire the way they approached the subject.

I congratulate both members on their first speeches in this House. I thought they were exceptionally well delivered. They deserve to be congratulated. I am not at all happy that a colleague of mine saw fit to do otherwise.

However, when the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Lavoie) started to alibi his actions by blaming someone else, I found this very distasteful. As a matter of fact the hon.