

During my 1984 electoral campaign, I had an ad showing a big bag from which came out the word "solutions". I found the problems, but I am still looking for the solutions. I wish the member would do the same.

Madam Deputy Speaker: If the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier will wait, we will go to another member and, if time permits, we will come back to him.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I also want to ask the hon. member a question.

Does the hon. member know that, in British Columbia, despite section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, despite section 530 of the Criminal Code of Canada and despite the Official Languages Act, francophones were denied their right to be tried in their language? It is left to the judge's discretion.

I will meet with a Franco-Columbian group in Vancouver in the same forum, because the hon. member talked about a forum. What must I tell that group who asked for funds in order to launch a court challenge against that provision? They want to use the program that you cut. What must I tell that group? That those proceedings are too expensive?

Mr. Jourdenais: Madam Speaker, I am not quite sure of the member's question, but I imagine that he is going somewhere in British Columbia. Are you going there as a lawyer or as a member of Parliament? I am not quite sure because earlier in your speech and in your questions, you kept referring to the fact that you were a lawyer and that you were aware of similar cases in which you were even involved.

If you are talking as a lawyer, I would tell you to be generous right now. What I accept now but found very hard to accept with this program and many others—because there are other programs that I oppose—was that the government gives money to people who then turn around and sue us.

[English]

I really have a hard time. The hon. member may remember when I stood in the House in 1984 to make my first speech that his question was the hardest question I

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had ever heard since coming here: "Will you paint your walls blue spending money?" I have a hard time answering a question like that. Every time I see him, I think he is going to ask me that question. We are not painting the walls any more. We have to save.

I read the other day 32 or 35 newspaper clippings saying that the budget that we presented about a month ago was the best budget that has been presented for over 10 to 15 years. I back it up and I am banking on it.

[Translation]

Madam Deputy Speaker: There is one minute left. The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, I will only be a minute. I want to go back on the issue of education and minority groups. I am talking about school boards that refuse to give their students a teaching in the language of the minority. That is what we are talking about.

When we talk about wasting, this year the Department of Justice increased its budget for disputes by some \$16 million, based on estimates made by the regions. This means that the federal government has \$16 million more to go before the courts. I ask the member: What logic does he use to say that the Court Challenges Program which, over a period of five years, cost only \$4,935,112, is wasting money, when the accused were provinces and sometimes even the federal government and school boards? Where is the wasting? I am sorry, but there is no wasting of money there.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Thirty seconds. The hon. member for La Prairie.

Mr. Jourdenais: It is going to be difficult to give a quick reply. I want to tell the hon. member that when I used the word wasting earlier, I meant in a general way. I mean there are so many expenses that were made, that are still being made, and I am opposed to that. When some departments get budget increases of \$16 million for things like that, I do exactly what I did earlier in my speech: I voice my opposition to such measures. I understand the situation because the problem exists in my riding. We will have to find a solution by using other programs within the department.