

Quebec and France Exchange of Letters

think that cuts both ways because the federal government has been interfering in fields of provincial jurisdiction long before today. I will quote one example only which comes to my mind this morning, since we have very little time.

It is about the adult education program set up by the Department of Manpower, and under which those who are in charge of courses in the various provinces have to follow the instructions of the federal government. The Quebec government and other provincial governments have suffered, in several circumstances, from the fact that the central government had interfered in fields outside its jurisdiction, and had taken unfair advantage of its rights as the central authority, because it was the first to do something. In my opinion, the Quebec government is getting nervous, and it was anxious to make the first move to make sure that education by satellite would at least be carried out between France and Quebec.

Now, nothing prevents the federal government from putting into effect any technological progress in the field of satellite communications, since it concerns telecommunications. If, on the one hand, the federal government deems advisable to take an interest in that field because it feels that it can afford it, and if, on the other hand, it doubts, as the Prime Minister said in the house a few days ago, whether Quebec is still financially in a position to meet the cost of the Quebec-French satellite, then it should take action because, in my opinion, Quebec has been one of the provinces in Confederation that has paid its share and has not been among the least taxed.

Today, one is amazed that Quebec is still in good shape financially, which, in my view is insulting for the French Canadians and the Quebec population. The Quebec government went rather far—let us admit it—on a matter which has not been settled yet. We are speaking of satellites, a field which falls within the jurisdiction of the federal government, and of education, which falls within the jurisdiction of the provinces.

Provinces are given responsibilities with regard to roads, education and in many other fields, but the federal government holds the purse strings. In fact, it has the power to tax and to control money whilst administrative responsibilities in several fields fall on the provinces. That is when conflicts arise, not only in the field of satellites, education or telecommunications, but as far as financial matters are concerned. The provinces have responsibilities, but the power to fulfill such

[Mr. Rondeau.]

responsibilities remain in the hands of the federal government.

I therefore hope that at the close of the federal-provincial conference which is to take place within a few days, we shall get something more than a press release stating: We have found out that problems exist in Canada, but we are expecting to come out with a solution at the next federal-provincial conference.

• (11:30 a.m.)

[English]

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXPO '67

USE OF SITE TO HOUSE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether his government intends to implement a suggestion made by the former prime minister, Mr. Pearson, that the site of Expo '67 should be used to house a centre of international development? Also, has any progress been made in implementing a decision announced in the Speech from the Throne opening this session regarding an international development centre in Canada?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, to answer the first part of the question, we learned only yesterday that Montreal would not continue with Man and His World. It is too early for us to know what should be done with this area. To answer the second part of the question, the Centre for International Development has been the subject of a great deal of study by the Department of External Affairs, and especially by the Canadian International Development Agency. When we present our white paper on external policy I think we will be in a position to suggest what we wish to do with the Centre for International Development.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I realize the Prime Minister has not had too much time overnight to consider the matter, but is the government prepared to consider seriously the suggestion of Mr. Pearson about the use of the site of Expo '67? Is the government prepared to look into this matter seriously at this time?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat that overnight I have not had a chance