

Interim Supply

In the United States a private foundation has been set up—the Woodward foundation, I think it is called—which buys paintings and sculpture and other works of art. These are then sent on loan to foreign posts on a revolving basis as representative of United States culture. Canada might well introduce a program on similar lines. Perhaps one or more of our great corporations would be prepared to undertake this enlightened public service. Our artists would be helped and our embassies enhanced.

A last minor complaint about amenities for Canadian public servants abroad: In this age of the immediate, why is it not yet possible for Canada to provide up to date Canadian news to our staffs anywhere in the world? Perhaps some would doubt whether there is much Canadian news deserving of such attention and priority. However, I strongly suggest that C.B.C. news bulletins arriving in some embassies five or six days after the event make the items contained somewhat less than compelling.

I trust my suggestions will receive the early attention and broad non-partisan support to which they are entitled.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron: Mr. Chairman, I feel I must make certain corrections before the conclusion of this debate. I do not intend to talk at length about all the remarks which have already been made concerning that famous federal-provincial conference. So my remarks will be about the comments that were made after the conference.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) claimed yesterday afternoon that the federal government was unduly influenced by the claims of the premier of Quebec. If by that he means that once more the province of Quebec received a special treatment as a result of the conference, he is wrong.

Referring to some newspaper articles, we realize that the results which seemed to be a step toward a new form of federalism have not attained the objective which had been set; far from it, it seems that the misunderstanding between the provinces is getting worse all the time.

The comments made on the radio on television and in the newspapers concerning the results of this federal-provincial conference are forever stressing the fact that the province of Quebec may have been favoured more than the others because it will receive nearly \$42 million out of the \$87 provided under the equalization agreement.

Here is a comment published in *Le Devoir* of December 3, 1963 and written by Mr. Marcel Thivierge, which says:

[Mr. Fairweather.]

Of all the provinces receiving equalization payments from Ottawa, Quebec is still getting the least per capita.

At first, when you find that, following the federal-provincial conference, Quebec is to get \$42 million out of the \$87 million that the federal government is handing over to the provinces for the next fiscal year, you wonder whether there has not been some favouritism shown there.

This allows Mr. Diefenbaker to state that the Pearson government has just yielded to pressures from Quebec.

However, if you take a closer look at the figures, you will find that Quebec is far from getting special treatment.

Indeed, you will find that Quebec is getting the lowest amount per capita as far as equalization goes. If to those payments you add the special grants to the maritime provinces, the amounts per capita are as follows:

Quebec, \$18.11; Newfoundland, \$38.34; Prince Edward Island, \$35.82; Nova Scotia, \$32.91; New Brunswick, \$35.52; Manitoba, \$18.27; and Saskatchewan, \$26.52.

If you add up what the provinces will receive through an increased share of taxation revenue (the 18-9-75 formula)—

—compared to the 25-25-100 formula—

—equalization payments and special grants to the maritimes, you will find that Quebec receives \$50.02 per capita compared to \$61.01 for Ontario. The other provinces receive per capita grants as follows: Newfoundland, \$95.34; Prince Edward Island, \$90.25; Nova Scotia, \$72.69; New Brunswick, \$75.31; Manitoba, \$58.63; Saskatchewan, \$53.00; Alberta, \$44.67; and British Columbia, \$54.68.

At \$50.02, Quebec gets much less than the average which is \$60.14.

This is where, in my opinion, it becomes necessary to set the record straight, and I wish that those who claim that Quebec got preferential treatment would keep quiet because there are official and non-official figures.

Mr. Chairman, at the outset of that famous conference, the Canadian people still hoped that confederation would move forward, but it merely gave a new direction to our federal system and provided a new formula to prevent the shameful spectacle of governments quarrelling over taxation powers. As a result, the Quebec premier who went to the conference as a lion came back as a lamb. I was not the only one to have that impression. In an editorial published in *L'Action Catholique*, last Saturday, parliamentary correspondent J. M. Poliquin stated that some people were dissatisfied with the results of the federal-provincial conference. Amongst other things, he wrote this:

It is with mixed feelings of satisfaction and dissatisfaction that Mr. Lesage came out yesterday of the federal-provincial conference room in Ottawa. He was pleased about the way Mr. Pearson had led the proceedings of the eleven upper level governments of our country. He paid him an unqualified tribute, saying during yesterday afternoon's press conference. Mr. Pearson fully exercised his natural talents for diplomacy, he is an extraordinary man, he knows how to voice an opinion contrary to another, while showing respect for our