

United Kingdom. Despite all the bland assurances of the minister this afternoon that this decision is one for the United Kingdom to make, we cannot forget that this government is attempting to enlist as much support as it can in the rest of the commonwealth in order to prevent the United Kingdom government from looking after the interests of its own population.

I was pleased that the minister at no time attempted to deny that the immediate best interest of the United Kingdom is to ally the economy of the United Kingdom with that of the European community.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Evidently you did not listen to me.

Mr. Regier: All we are saying is that this government ought to be aiding and assisting and joining with the government of the United Kingdom, not only so that there might be a greater interchange of goods between members of the commonwealth themselves but also between nations belonging to the European economic community and commonwealth nations. That would be an approach which, in the long run, would really be worth while and one which would be worthy of the interest and the sentiments of the Canadian people. I can only recall, in conclusion, the words used by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as he now is, at a time when Great Britain was in difficulty in the Middle East when he said: "This government is, really, pushing a knife into the back of our mother country."

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That is a malicious untruth.

Mr. Regier: It is not a malicious untruth, and the minister is well aware of it.

Mr. Chevrier: On a point of order, the minister has no right to say that it is a malicious untruth. That is a reflection on the hon. member. He may say a statement is untrue but to say that it is malicious is contrary to the rules which govern this committee. The minister should know better than that.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Regier: I am very happy to let the record speak for itself. If the Minister of Finance wishes to leave that on the record it is up to him. He has often made retorts in the heat of the moment. As I say, I shall leave it up to him.

I had expected that this debate would have been concerned with the estimates of the department. I wish, now, to return to those estimates. I know that we have concluded the debate on the dominion-provincial tax arrangements. However, I do want to add one

statement to what has been said, and I think it is appropriate at this time. Even though I come from British Columbia, one of the wealthiest areas of the dominion, and even though our premier continuously rants and rails at the hard deal he pretends he is getting from the federal government, I should like to say that I am a Canadian first and a British Columbian second. Despite the legislation which was approved yesterday, I hope this government will give serious consideration to doing much more on behalf of the "have not" provinces of Canada than has been indicated up to now. I realize that in terms of the legislation which has been passed today, in the long run my own province of British Columbia is going to lose. However, despite that, a decision has been made and I am not referring to that decision. I do hope that many times the aid which has so far been given will be made available to Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

It almost breaks your heart to walk into a school house in rural Nova Scotia and see how little those people who have always loved education so much are able to offer their children compared with what we in British Columbia are able to offer ours. I hope the day is not too far distant when the government will appeal to the Canadian people as a whole to make many more tens of millions of dollars available in order to enable the boys and girls of eastern Canada to enjoy the same opportunities and rights that are presently enjoyed by the boys and girls of Ontario and British Columbia.

I fail to see in the estimates any indication that the present government is aware of the fantastic discrepancy that exists in the opportunities that are available to Canadian children in one part of Canada as opposed to another. I assure the government that when it decides to spend not \$25 million but \$250 million annually in order to ensure equality of opportunity among Canadian children I shall go out on the public platform in British Columbia and defend the action and attitude of the government in that regard.

I turn now to the subject of interest rates, a major item in the estimates. I wish to underline the importance of a reduction in prevailing interest rates to our prosperity and national welfare. This government proposes to spend no less than \$747 million on interest on the public debt. This is roughly ten times as much as we propose to spend on the C.B.C. which offers so much of value to the Canadian public.

Mr. Benidickson: Three million dollars more on interest than Mr. Harris spent.

Mr. Regier: The government proposes to spend through the Department of Agriculture