

*Federal-Provincial Relations*

grams, most of which would not be in operation today if Ottawa had not urged the provinces to get in, if it had not offered the carrot of a 50 per cent payment, or Ottawa is making a unilateral decision to cut back on these commitments made to the provinces.

The President of the Treasury Board knows even better than I do that the projections made as to future revenue sources indicate that the prospects of the federal government—I hope it will be a different government than this one, in fact, I am sure it will be—in terms of revenues as compared to expenses are very good. The federal government in the next few years will likely be facing a surplus. The prospects of the provinces, which have the responsibility in dealing with such major forms of activity as education, health and welfare, are increased deficits and increased taxes. The situation has been exacerbated by the unilateral decision of the federal government to talk to the provinces but not to really consult and not to arrive at decisions on the basis of agreements.

**Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, I have always found the NDP confusing. I have found them to be mixed up in many of their policies but never have I realized it so much as when I listened to the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) speaking on this motion. On the one hand, the hon. member seems to be the great defender of the provinces. That is how he spoke this evening. The reason he does so is probably because it is politically expedient at this time. The NDP, in the course of the last few months and perhaps the last few years under its new leader, has forgotten all about their principles, all about their famous concepts to save their political skins because they have been so unpopular and have had so many problems. Suddenly they change from one position to the other. On the one hand, tonight they defend the provinces—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. Is the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) rising for the purpose of asking a question?

**Mr. Rose:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau) is imputing certain motives to the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). I cannot understand why he would do this, because I do not think the hon. member for Winnipeg North or his party threaten the hon. member.

**Mr. Breau:** That is the problem with the NDP; they can give it but they cannot take it. I have not imputed motives to the hon. member for Winnipeg North; I am just responding to his speech. And I do not only respond to speeches when my constituency is threatened, because if that were the case I would not be speaking very often.

**Mr. Rose:** You do not speak very often, anyway.

**Mr. Breau:** I speak just as often as the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose). The hon. member for Winnipeg North and some members of the NDP today suddenly respect the rights of the provinces. But what about their position on foreign control of the economy, for example? Do they respect the provinces? How many provinces support the stand of the NDP on foreign investment? How many provinces support the stand of the NDP

[Mr. Orlikow.]

on the foreign takeover review act introduced by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin)?

• (2120)

**Mr. Orlikow:** How many provinces support the government's proposals?

**Mr. Breau:** Many provinces support the government's proposals. Even the premier of the province from which the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) comes is not that much against this government's proposals.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order. The hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) knows that the hon. member who has the floor has only 20 minutes in which to make his speech. I think the hon. member should be allowed to make his speech.

**Mr. Breau:** I point out that they cannot take it, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. The hon. member for Lotbinière on a point of order.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, you have just said that the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau) would be allowed 20 minutes. Between the Chair and us there has just been an agreement allowing the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) to close the debate and to have 20 minutes for that purpose, which means that the hon. member for Gloucester will not have the floor for 20 minutes, though being allowed to make his speech.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. Nothing tells me that the hon. member is not entitled to his 20 minutes.

**Mr. Fortin:** I rise on a question of privilege. Your Honour, I do not mean to offend you, but I very respectfully beg you to inquire from your two assistants, who have quite an assignment to meet—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order. There is no question of privilege. I have all the information I need to know that the hon. member for Gloucester is entitled to 20 minutes.

**Mr. Fortin:** I rise on a question of privilege.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. Does the hon. member for Lotbinière rise on another question of privilege?

**Mr. Fortin:** Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept that decision and I question it because two hon. members from my party witnessed the agreement that was made with your colleague and we expect that agreement to be observed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order! I have stated my decision; the hon. member who has the floor is entitled to his 20 minutes.