

have an opportunity to answer the hon. member since I was in the chair, and it was of course his duty and responsibility to make comments and ask questions. However, he is still referring, as he did yesterday during his speech, as reported on page 15705 of *Hansard*, sizeable budget cuts in the area of health, welfare and social affairs. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows perfectly well he is saying half-truths or hiding the truth altogether. I want to remind him that at the meeting on December 4, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin), when questioned, tabled the budget figures for 1981-82 and 1982-83 covering contributions for health care under established programs financing, but excluding the guaranteed income supplement. I am looking at the increases for the hon. member's own province of Alberta, Mr. Speaker, which received \$689 million in contributions in 1981-82, which will go up to \$772 million in 1982-83, an increase of 12 per cent. He was referring just now to the situation in Newfoundland, and since an election has been called in Newfoundland I wonder whether he was not acting as a spokesman for Mr. Peckford. In any case, people in Newfoundland are watching us right now, and when he says that cuts have been made by the Department of National Health and Welfare, I can see from the budget figures given by the minister at the meeting of the standing committee on December 4, that \$182 million was budgeted for Newfoundland and will be increased to \$204 million, in other words, an increase of 12.3 per cent. In my own province, Mr. Parizeau has been speaking in the same terms, and I would not be surprised to hear the member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) repeating them, although the amount budgeted for the province of Quebec, which last year was \$1.9 billion for health care, is to increase to \$2.2 billion for 1982-83, in other words, an increase of 12.2 per cent. This is not being mentioned by Mr. Parizeau and it is not being mentioned by the official opposition, but these are the official figures, the real thing. Before getting on with my speech, Mr. Speaker, I think that a member of this House has no right to take half-truths lightly, especially since I was chairing the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs when the minister, in answer to these questions, tabled the document I have before me.

Mr. Speaker, the second half-truth told by the member for Calgary West was heard yesterday evening when he was speaking for Quebec, just as he was speaking for Newfoundland just now. He said that the only Quebec member who spoke for Quebec was the member for Joliette. Here again, Mr. Speaker, it is not a case of deliberately lying to the House, but it is perhaps a different interpretation of the facts. I understand that the member for Joliette is a frequent participant in press conferences. If there is a microphone somewhere, either for radio or television, the member for Joliette is there as the expert, and whether it is the Constitution, the footwear industry, pipelines, potatoes, fiscal arrangements, the member for Joliette is always on hand to answer any questions. He is an expert, on what I don't know, but many people say he is an expert on political organization. In fact, judging from his attendance record for the Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, for instance, which I have been chairing for two years, the member for Joliette has never attended committee

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meetings, where 20 per cent of the total budget of the Government of Canada is examined. If the member for Calgary West were fair, he would tell us where Quebec's interests lie and who is defending Quebec in this area. I see the member for Joliette is in his seat, and I dare him to confirm what I just said, namely, that he has never attended the health committee, a committee that examines 20 per cent of the total budget of the Government of Canada.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The member for Laval is challenging me to prove that I did or did not attend the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs. With all the responsibilities he attributed to me just now, he should understand that I have not had time to attend the committee's meetings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member did not raise a point of order.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, the member for Joliette has just confirmed that in two years he never attended meetings of the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs where 20 per cent of the government's total budget, namely, the votes for welfare, health, hospital insurance and health insurance, is considered. Well, this goes to show how mistaken the member for Calgary West was yesterday when he said that the hon. member was the sole spokesman for Quebec. Personally, Mr. Speaker, I see him as the record player stylus of the Progressive Conservative Party in Quebec, because he speaks on every possible subject. However, I said that he at least had a talent for political organization. Unfortunately, since 1968 his only achievement has been to keep his own riding. All other Progressive Conservatives in Quebec have been eliminated, so that the hon. member's organizational talents have been limited to his own riding. So when the member for Calgary West tells us that the member for Joliette is the only member defending the rights of Quebecers, I think they are in much better hands with the 74 members here in the House who work on committees, are active at the caucus level, work on legislation and are doing more than making all kinds of statements, from the footwear industry to the Constitution and including all the items I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker.

• (1530)

An hon. Member: All talk and no action.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, after reading Bill C-97, an act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977 and to provide for payments to certain provinces, I wanted to take part in this debate for two reasons. The first is that this bill provides for the sharing of taxes according to provincial needs and the capacity to pay of individuals which can be reflected within a province by an industrial structure which can generate employment or by natural resources which are an important source of revenue. The second reason is the importance of this bill, which, as I mentioned earlier, represents 20 per cent of the