

*Supply*

What I want to say is that the Minister of State for Transport, whose presence I acknowledge in the House—and I do not think you will object, Mr. Speaker, because the Minister is an important Member of this Cabinet—I want to tell him that I wish he would look into the Canadian North Warning System. On March 23 of this year, *Les Affaires* reported that the Federal Government was refusing to make any commitments or even to examine potential regional spin-offs from the contract to upgrade our Canadian North Warning System, and I am asking the Minister to ensure that Quebec gets its fair share of this defence contract, as has been the case in all major contracts awarded by the Canadian Government, Mr. Speaker. I think we have a whole list of other issues. I could comment on the problems at Air Canada, Canadian National, VIA Rail, Canadair, Teleglobe Canada, the Corporation of the Port of Montreal, the National Film Board, Katimavik, the C.B.C., the Aviation Safety Board, all of which have suffered at the hands of the new Government. Mr. Speaker, regional economic development means ensuring that the interests of Quebec are properly safeguarded. I could talk about the airport at Rouyn, and I know the Minister of State for Transport is very much aware of that airport because he has received a request from the Rouyn-Noranda Chamber of Commerce, and I am sure he will give them a positive answer, but speaking of transport, and of discrimination, there is one issue a Member from Quebec dared to raise, and which he promised to look into, during his election campaign, and that is the toll on the Champlain Bridge. And I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Government will honour whatever commitments were made by its own Members. Every week I fall victim to that discrimination of a special tax on South Shore residents, and I am convinced the Hon. Member who made that distinct promise will be able to fulfill it, with the assistance of his colleagues from the Quebec caucus.

But speaking of the Quebec caucus, Mr. Speaker, since you may think I am not an impartial observer I am going to quote from an editorial written by Mr. François Roberge in the newspaper *Finance*, who had this to say: "I do not know whether Quebec is now gaining anything through the good will of the Mulroney Government, but certainly it is losing its shirt on many issues because of the weakness of the Quebec caucus".

Mr. Speaker, that was not written by a Liberal. In that respect, I am convinced that my colleagues opposite will overcome their timidity. They will ask themselves questions. How was it that a matter like the Western Bank was solved within a minute, while matters relating to Quebec have been dragging along since the election? And all of them have such problems in their respective constituencies.

**An Hon. Member:** Which one?

**Mr. Lapierre:** Which one? Had we not been here, Mr. Speaker, to raise the example of the Domtar issue, they would

have been in for it. That is the kind of defenders we have for Quebec. The Official Opposition has to work double time, twelve or eighteen hours a day keeping an eye on them, because they do not look after their own interests. Which one? There is the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce), to whom I want to pay tribute because he is not afraid to speak his mind. There is also of course the Hon. Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (Mr. Desrosiers), but each court has its jesters, Mr. Speaker.

What I mean is if we are to address other matters, let them be farm matters. We know that in Quebec the pork industry is now in serious trouble, for their American friends have put a surtax on them. How can Government Members justify their not reacting violently to a surtax that will put that industry in absolute shambles? I am keeping an eye on them, to see what kind of position they will be taking with respect to the Crows' Nest rates. I am keeping an eye on them in connection with the Canadian Dairy Commission. How is it that not one of them has opposed the \$32 million cuts? Where are you, for heaven's sake? This is why, Mr. Speaker, Quebecers and Members in this party are worried because of those 58 silent MP's and we are anxious to see them take some self-assurance and defend Quebec's interests in this Parliament.

● (1250)

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Before we get into questions and comments, I want to make sure that Members know that when they are debating, they are not to mention the absence of specific Members in the Chamber. I should read the "blues", but I did not hear the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) indicate a particular Member in the House. If he did, he was out of order.

We will now go to questions and comments.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Bouchard:** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, we do not have as much time as the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre), but in any case, we would not want to try the patience of the House which was especially tested by the intervention of my Hon. friend.

We rediscovered a picture with which the Canadian people have been familiar for many years, that of the nightmare years preceding the coming into power of this Government, and I simply want to remind the Hon. Member for Shefford about the need for the cut-backs which the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens), along with his other colleagues, reluctantly agreed to apply to a number of worthwhile programs, and we concede to the Hon. Member that some initiatives of Quebec businesses are still as valid as under the previous Government, but unfortunately, the money is no longer there. The funds are no longer there. Of course, it is always the same, but contrary to the previous Government, we