

ed by the Leader of the Opposition to manage the organization. It is explained that the organization is different from the association. Well, the six men appointed by the Leader of the Opposition make up what is known as a strategy committee, and they meet every Friday to coordinate their efforts in trying to win Quebec to the Progressive Conservative party. The said Mr. Toutant emphasizes the importance of bringing people of all political creeds into the Progressive Conservative party, in order to create an anti-Liberal coalition, and once again I quote:

[English]

The Progressive Conservative Party is open to people of different parties and we welcome people of all political hues because to win we have to increase our vote, and it isn't by frowning on those of other political persuasion that we'll succeed.

That is nice: that is visionary spirit, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Among the names of those who make up this committee of six, except Mr. Toutant, there are Messrs. André Robert and Richard LeHir. In fact, as it is explained in the article, Messrs. Robert and LeHir are not even Progressive Conservatives. When questioned on his political opinions, Mr. Robert stated, and I quote again:

[English]

I rather define myself as a sovereignist.

[Translation]

I am rather a sovereignist. I expect Quebecers know what a sovereignist is, Mr. Speaker, that is the label put on by those too shy to call themselves separatists. And Mr. LeHir is only nationalist, but the depth of his convictions may be seen, and I quote again:

[English]

—I consider that, as long as Quebec remains within confederation, we must be concerned about federal politics—

[Translation]

Brave ones, Mr. Speaker, brave ones indeed! One would use the old cliché about an army of mercenaries, although "army" is too large indeed, one might call it a platoon of mercenaries, Mr. Speaker. Mercenaries without much in the nature of decent affiliations, and worse still not seeking any. They wish to work for the Progressive Conservatives in Quebec; it would seem the reason for the failure in Trois-Rivières is that the party on the other side has taken the attitude that anything is good for Quebecers, anything at all, lay it on thick, pick anybody. One visualizes the leader of the opposition coming down main street in Trois-Rivières. He looked like a cowboy, coming down the main street as in the movies. Completely alone in the street. It is probably one of the only instances where it may be said that one is a crowd, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

An hon. Member: What's wrong with cowboys?

[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, in the *Globe and Mail* of April 29 last there is a priceless quotation from the Leader of the Opposition, and here again this is between quotation marks:

*The Budget—Mr. Trudeau*

[English]

—a Stanfield Government—

In the words of the Leader of the Opposition.

—would show "imagination, daring, promptness, effectiveness, open-mindedness, frankness and humanity."

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, in a sense we know what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) means when he talks of open-mindedness. The kind of open-mindedness he means is open-arms for any who want to help to build the Tory Party. But the interesting adjectives are the ones which follow. How does that party show daring and imagination? I read again from the *Globe and Mail*. There had been a question and answer session, Mr. Speaker.

—the questioners had been picked beforehand by Richard LeHir—

About whom we talked a moment ago.

The questions and answers had been prepared by several people, notably Andre Robert, a sociologist who is an adviser to Mr. Stanfield.

The leader spent much of Saturday afternoon before the session being coached on answers by his special assistant, Richard Lelay. While Mr. Stanfield worked on the answers in a third-floor suite, Mr. LeHir was coaching the questioners in a fourth-floor room.

So much for the daring and imagination. I say there is more imagination than daring in that procedure.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, they were feeling so lonely in Trois-Rivières that some jokers suggested that the name of the city be changed to that of "Une-Rivière". That would make one river, two leaders or two nations—I am not too sure—three financial critics, four Horsemen of the Apocalypse and several raccoons.

We know the whole Quebec Tory caucus would easily fit in a Volkswagen. After the next election they will have to go and look for a chauffeur somewhere.

[English]

Mr. Lawrence: Tell us about the Liberal caucus of Alberta.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, even when I was in Alberta I was never as lonely as the Leader of the Opposition was in Three Rivers; I can tell you that. I never tried to fool the people of Alberta, Mr. Speaker. They might not always like our policies, but they know what they are and we do not fool around trying to kid them.

● (2030)

I spent some time, perhaps too much, describing the origin and the development of this feeling of an impending election. I would like to spend the remainder of my time trying to describe where it is leading us.

An hon. Member: What about the budget?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, I will be talking about the budget, Mr. Speaker. I think it is extremely important that we understand the effects of the vote which will be taken tomorrow night. If we are to believe the opposition, the effect will be to put an end to this parliament and have a general election.