

It does not matter that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has the means and the power to declare this criminal a danger to the public and have him deported. It does not matter to the bleeding heart Liberals, but it does matter to Canadians.

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### ROYAL BANK

**Mr. Alex Shepherd (Durham, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the Royal Bank is our largest financial institution. It is part of the general banking industry that has been requesting increased access to other financial service sectors within our country so that, as it says, it can more effectively compete in a new globalized trading system.

Canadians have paid the price of reduced competition in the securities business and now there is the possibility of encroachment into the area of insurance.

This bank now chooses to display the flag of the United States in some of its branches.

• (1415)

While I understand this is a promotional campaign, Canadians are nevertheless insulted by this intrusion of foreign symbolism into what has been until now a historically Canadian institution. This is especially true since it has been Canadians who have paid the price in many countless ways of supporting it.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

### MANPOWER TRAINING

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, in a unanimous decision, the Société québécoise de développement de la main-d'œuvre, which brings together business and employee representatives, yesterday denounced federal encroachment, in the form of Bill C-96, in the area of manpower training. This public organization is asking the government to stop setting up new parallel structures and to refrain from further intrusion into Quebec jurisdiction.

I ask the Prime Minister if he acknowledges that, with Bill C-96, Ottawa is acquiring the means to meddle further in manpower training and will therefore increase overlap and waste to the detriment of the unemployed and Quebec's jurisdiction?

[English]

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, obviously the Leader of the Opposition has not taken the time to read the bill. There are no new

powers given to the human resources department, as he may well recall.

The human resources department is an amalgamation of four other departments to provide a more effective delivery of services across Canada. The powers under article 6 were also contained within the existing departments. Over the past year they have allowed us to have almost 50,000 different contracts and agreements with a wide variety of groups, including the province of Quebec and the Government of Quebec in order to better assist Quebec workers to get back to work and to help with training. We have done that in a very co-operative way.

I hope the hon. Leader of the Opposition will not go off on another wild goose chase but will look at the legislation and see there are no new powers. We are simply trying to make a more efficient delivery of what the government wants to do which is help people get back to work.

[Translation]

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Prime Minister and his minister that the Société québécoise de développement de la main-d'œuvre is a non partisan organization, which brings together all stakeholders in Quebec, which knows how to read bills, and which saw in this one a dangerous encroachment upon Quebec's jurisdiction.

I would ask the Prime Minister whether he acknowledges that, with this bill, his government is going against the very broad consensus in Quebec in favour of repatriating financial responsibility for manpower training?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Human Resources Development said it clearly a few seconds ago. He said that the bill before Parliament at this moment is aimed at amalgamating government agencies that were under different departments, and the powers delegated to the minister at this moment are exactly the same as those in previous legislation.

At this point, with all the provinces, including Quebec, we are trying to make administrative arrangements to reduce duplication. The minister, in fact, signed a number of agreements with the Government of Quebec over this past summer.

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the government cannot minimize what is going on. It is an unprecedented assault on all legislative fronts, which is aimed specifically at giving the federal government the means to meddle once and for all throughout an area of Quebec jurisdiction, messing things up further than they already are at the moment.

I would remind the Prime Minister that the Société québécoise de développement de la main-d'œuvre's denunciation of the federal bill was unanimous and had the support of Ghislain Dufour, president of the Conseil du patronat and a member of the no camp.