

The Address—Mr. Sevigny

and a great patriot. Thanks to Mr. Noel Dorion's efforts, it can be said that bilingualism has made giant strides throughout Canada.

Who, among the opposition or elsewhere, could say that there exists in Canada a more important function than that of looking after the development of our mining resources and the improvement of technical surveys? At the head of this most important department, the Prime Minister has placed the Hon. Jacques Flynn, a lawyer of great renown who is also a great speaker, and who has won the admiration of all those who know him.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Defence alone spends 30 per cent of the public funds. Two ministers share the task of administering the affairs of this department. I will not claim like our friends of the opposition who profess to know all there is to know about everything—that I have become an authority on all matters related to national defence, but, after listening to the criticism made by the opposition and the new party during the debate on the department's estimates toward the end of the last session, I can state, in all modesty, that I am ready to discuss this question on any husting, on radio or television, with any critic of the official opposition. I think that I could easily show that the Conservative government has given Canada a wise and efficient defence policy.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset of my remarks, facts talk louder than words. And we have facts to prove that during four years in office, the French-speaking ministers from the province of Quebec have achieved more for the cause of French Canada and for the province of Quebec than the so-called supermen of the Liberal party during the 22 years they sat on cabinet benches.

I have feelings of esteem and friendship for our predecessors on the cabinet benches who were ministers in the Mackenzie King and St. Laurent administrations. I would not want to offend or insult them by useless words, but I think I can say that men such as Leon Balcer, Raymond O'Hurley, Noel Dorion and Jacques Flynn also have ability and have proven that they can be compared in every respect to men such as Pinard, Côté, Lapointe and Chevrier—

An hon. Member: Do not forget Lesage.

Mr. Sevigny: —who sat on cabinet benches under a Liberal administration, and I in-

clude in that list the name of the present premier of the province of Quebec, the Hon. Jean Lesage.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the ministers from the province of Quebec have shown themselves worthy of the confidence placed in them by the people of our province. They came here, in Ottawa, fully conscious of the importance of the mandate entrusted to them by their electors. When they first came here, they were perhaps somewhat ignorant of parliamentary procedure and, at times, they may have been awkward. But they learned, Mr. Speaker, and, having learned, they took action. They will be proud now to display their achievements before the people, and since the people's court is always fair, they will be given their due and the Conservative party will be returned to power with an overwhelming majority after the next election.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Essex East stated a while ago, as it is his duty to do, that he does not endorse the government's economic policies. Moreover, as he and those around him usually do, he came back again on his favourite subject of lament, the question of unemployment, and he repeated the same old stories we have heard on several instances in the house.

We cannot blame him. No, truly, we cannot blame him, Mr. Speaker, because as he pointed out himself, under our parliamentary system, it is the duty of the opposition to criticize the government. However, he keeps on harping on the same subject, as if he had nothing else to say.

If we were to fall for his eloquence and his persuasive arguments, perhaps we would be convinced. But facts are there to prove that we did take action, that we did give Canada the administration it needed to come out of the recession. The facts are there to prove that Canada is heading for the highest economic destiny under the able leadership of John Diefenbaker and the Conservative party.

(Text):

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the previous speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The previous speaker's time has just expired; therefore unless there is unanimous consent he cannot answer the question.