

The Budget

it is providing social housing; it is outrageous. When the minister adds that we should applaud the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for Montreal's economic development, that is the last straw.

So this study, that will be made available to you—again, it is called *Déclin de l'empire montréalais*—identifies the Quebec political option as a minor factor. It is a minor political factor at this stage. I would guess that William J. Coffey is not a sovereigntist.

It is important for Quebec's main city to give itself tools and to recognize that these tools must belong to the Quebec government. The federal government did not fulfil its mandate and I myself have lost hope.

• (1710)

In 1988, I was among those who supported the Conservatives for the nice worth—

An hon. member: Chrétien nixed that one.

Mr. Daviault: The “beau risque”, as we say in French, did not work. Even Bourassa's five minimum conditions did not work. To start with, these five minimum conditions with a patriation of power, respect for our jurisdiction, even that did not work. The government tells us that as far as the Constitution is concerned, it is business as usual, the problem will disappear by itself. That is not true. The federal government is involved in all spheres of activity. There is not one department, except possibly defence, where it is not involved.

The economic development projects that it presents to us, the Youth Corps program which resembles Katimavik is a provincial program. It has no business being there. This is a cultural program, an educational program, it has no business being there.

As for occupational training, no subject brings such nearly unanimous agreement among Quebecers. Even the very federalist Conseil du patronat and its president, Ghislain Dufour, who is not a sovereigntist, agree. It is up to the SQDM, the Quebec labour development corporation, to act in this field. When we get to this point in other subjects, we can raise specific issues where the federal government does not even recognize programs that qualify for the SQDM, there is all that duplication. We are wasting our energy while we cut help for the unemployed. You said yourselves that by cutting unemployment insurance, you would put pressure on welfare. Now that you are in power, you say the opposite.

Hon. Fernand Robichaud (Secretary of State (Parliamentary Affairs)): Mr. Speaker, I find it very depressing to listen to the speeches of Bloc Quebecois members. They are painting a very gloomy picture of Quebec and making it out to be the most miserable place in the world. Truthfully, I would be most unhappy if I had to live there.

Would Bloc members not be better off singing the praises of Quebec expertise, and giving examples of the achievements of Quebec industries which are recognized around the world? Does the hon. member not think that if he spoke in a more positive tone, if he praised Quebec's merits, then businesses would consider relocating to the province, which would result in job creation and improve the lot of Quebecers? Does he not want the same thing as we want?

Mr. Daviault: I thank the hon. member for Beauséjour. Indeed, entrepreneurship in Quebec is alive and well. In my riding, attempts were under way for many years to set up an economic development corporation. Federal and provincial members of Parliament and municipal councillors persisted in telling us that this was impossible. But, we took matters into our own hands and established such a corporation, because we had the will to succeed.

There are many examples of similar successes at the provincial level. However, we also encounter obstacles and when I spoke about unemployment insurance in particular, I mentioned that we needed some oxygen. Until such time as all of these problems are resolved, and the Minister of Human Resources Development sits down with his provincial counterpart and settles the question of manpower training as best he can, until such time, we need some oxygen in Montreal to help the disadvantaged who are gasping for breath.

This afternoon, the minister quoted from a newspaper clipping. Undoubtedly, he overlooked an article on unemployment insurance which appeared on page C-1 of today's edition of *La Presse*. It quotes Mr. Claude Forget, a former provincial Liberal minister who once put forward a major proposal for unemployment insurance reform.

• (1715)

Mr. Forget is reported as saying that the introduction of a different benefit level for persons with dependants will complicate matters and increase the costs of administering the legislation which is already highly complex.

With two different benefit levels, namely 55 per cent and 60 per cent, the system will be absolutely impossible to administer. This will create major problems and complicate the system. In addition, as reported on page C-3, the budget proposes vague fiscal measures. Even the experts are confused. Moreover, it is reported on the front page that Mr. Paul Martin was visibly disappointed with the frosty reception given to the government's financial plan and was prepared to accept part of the blame.

Perhaps the most interesting of all the articles appearing in *La Presse*—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired. We will now proceed to debate.