

*The Budget—Mr. Caouette*

How nice! Just in case the election should suddenly be called. Back to the quotation:

—for your efforts in drawing up your project and for your interest in the program.

Yours sincerely,

Gérard Pelletier

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Lovely.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** What a lovely letter; not a single mistake.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, it is an excellent piece of rhetoric. Very nice, and in good French. But when you ask young people to present projects, why not tell them: Now listen; we cannot accept your project because we think there is discrimination with regard to the ridings. When the ridings are Liberal, we are a bit more generous. But they are not all Liberal.

Mr. Speaker, a project was submitted by a group of young people from Guérin, in my constituency. I am going to read a letter dated May 7 which they addressed to Opportunities for Youth:

To whom it may concern:

We have been advised that projects 281-5746 and 281-4937 have been refused.

As we live in a marginal parish, we prepared two projects related to tourism, while emphasizing the development aspect and the participation of everybody.

Since we feel we gave adequate answers to the questions asked, we cannot understand why the said projects have been refused.

We wish to know what the criteria for assessment are.

Those young people are not stupid! They know what they want, and their projects were serious and worthwhile. These projects were not those of social agitators, of communists or socialists. The letter went on:

We wish to know what the criteria for assessment are, and we request that these two projects be reassessed.

We would like to point out that the projects involve seven post-secondary students.

Hoping to receive a favourable reply, we thank you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Opportunities for Youth,  
Bernard Bois,

Guérin, Témiscamingue County

• (1710)

I have before me another one originating from Saint-Lambert Desmeloizes, in the Abitibi riding, and another from Malartic in the Villeneuve riding. Three people have signed the letter from the Abitibi riding, which indicates that young people are fairly concerned about this matter. At least they got an acknowledgement of receipt following the submission of their project; but the letter is more interesting than that and I quote:

This is a little story about two student groups of our parish and their experience with the Opportunities for Youth program.

We were informed, at the end of February, that graduating secondary students would be allowed to submit projects within the

[Mr. Caouette.]

Opportunities for Youth program and that someone would call at the school to explain to them how to get organized—

This is about a government official who was to detail and specify the criteria. I proceed with my quotation:

Their project should reach Ottawa at the beginning of March. We had, therefore, some ten days ahead of us to think, organize and find a project which would meet the "general criteria", (very, very general ones).

The official in question who was supposed to give the necessary information was not immediately available—Time went by. One meeting after another was held, in the evening, in the parish church to set up a project as best as we could: There were no means of obtaining precise information and we were left to our hopes!

We received an "acknowledgement of receipt". That was something, at least!

A couple of months later, we received a nice letter informing us that the project meets the criteria—But that there were too many projects.

That was exactly the same letter I read earlier concerning another project.

No money—

And I proceed with my quotation:

that the project meets the criteria—But that there were too many projects. Ours were both rejected.

Two projects in one parish and none is accepted. I proceed:

Why? Was the choice made at random. Was there any reluctance to invest in our region? We should have been forwarned—

Were the projects not of the kind to be subsidized this year? Who could advise us? A matter of luck? We do not believe that anymore!

Should have we been told some secrets? We are far from Ottawa. We do not know any of your officials—

There would be many other questions which we would like to ask you, Sir.

It should be noted that the letter was sent to the Secretary of State. I continue to quote:

The same applies to LIP. We are promised the moon and stars and then nothing happens. Then some people will say that the young people have no interest whatsoever . . . that they want everything ready-made . . . that they do not know how to commit themselves, . . . that they are pessimistic, passive, etc.

After so many deceptions, it is evident that they become passive.

The letter is signed by Louise Fluet, Johanne St-Georges and Mario Laroche: one is animator in the parish and the others are responsible for the program.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not read the other letter coming from Malartic. It says the same thing—a well presented project, which represents an expenditure of about \$12,700 and could provide jobs for 17 people. Messrs. Gaétan Boulanger and Bernard Dubé, from Malartic, were responsible for it. The project number was 282-1970.

Mr. Speaker, I reviewed this project this morning, and I realized that it was very well thought-out. It is a good and necessary thing for the city of Malartic. Now, the minister continues to give the same answer: "I regret to inform you that your project will not be subsidized this year." No doubt that it could not be subsidized last year, since it had not been introduced.