

*Private Members' Business*

Let us not forget the great struggles led by Lesage in the 1960's, by Bourassa, by Bertrand, by Lévesque, and again recently by Bourassa who condemned, by means of a unanimous resolution of the National Assembly, that is a resolution supported by both the *Parti québécois* and the Liberal Party, the federal government's intention to establish national standards for labour training as expressed in last May's Speech from the Throne.

Today, we see Conservative members from Quebec say yes to a motion presented by a member of a party in favor of centralization, say yes to a motion that would allow the federal government to take charge of an area that, historically, has been under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Quebec government. It is unbelievable. They seem unaware of what they are doing recently, those Tory MPs from Quebec. We saw them say yes to a motion, to a Speech from the Throne that talked about interfering in the area of labour training. We saw them applaud the Minister of Communications who wanted to interfere in the area of telecommunications, an area of exclusive provincial jurisdiction. Again Quebec expressed its disagreement.

We saw the same thing in the debate we had today on the environmental bill, an area that Quebec wants to have under its jurisdiction.

• (1950)

Today the Quebec legislature unanimously condemned the federal government for trying to intervene with this environmental legislation, Bill C-13. What will it be tomorrow? Will we see Conservative members from Quebec voting against Quebec, as the Liberals did in 1982 when the Constitution was brought home? You will recall Quebecers call these 73 Liberal members noodles them. How would they call the Conservative members now. There is no doubt that they will be treated just like the Liberal members were treated then. When I watch them reach with their big hands into such sacred areas of jurisdiction as education, I think: Never have the Conservative members so openly said such stupid things.

I am deeply shocked, to see the support those two Quebec members just lent to such interfering in education. I recall all the motions which were unanimously passed by the Quebec legislature, whatever party was in office, and which said: No interfering in education, never

in such a sacred area of jurisdiction. Manpower training is also a sacred area of jurisdiction, witness the fact that agreements have been reached in all the areas of manpower training so that Quebec can keep its powers.

Again I am flabbergasted to see these two members accept such a thing. Whether we are talking about manpower training or training in the primary and secondary industries, education is under the jurisdiction of the Quebec government and the federal government should never interfere in that field, as we have done in the past and as we are trying to do right now, as I mentioned earlier, in the areas of education, communication, and whatnot. Let us not forget that during previous and current constitutional discussions and during all the debates which took place, there has never been any questioning about the fact that education is a provincial responsibility.

But today, on a motion presented by a member of a party in favour of centralization, two Conservative members from Quebec rise to say that, from now on, education should be a federal responsibility. The federal government should take up sacred jurisdictions. The federal government should administer everything, and the provinces should become large city councils. They should not have any responsibility in areas such as communications and education, in all areas where Quebec performed so well.

I remind the hon. member for Laval-Est that when you talk about vocational training you have to remember that the needs are different. The needs in Quebec are not the same as the needs in the east where the economy is based on fishing, or in the west where it is based on agriculture, or in Ontario where it is industry, especially automotive industry. We have diversified. I remind the two conservative members who just spoke that during an employment forum held in Montreal, with the *Conseil du Patronat*, all the Quebec unions, opposition members, provincial liberal members, there was unanimity to demand exclusive jurisdiction in that field in the constitutional talks. Quebec should have sole jurisdiction over education, including vocational training. There was unanimity. When Mr. Bourassa was touring Quebec a year ago he was saying: "There is one priority, one area where we will never give up, and that is getting back sole jurisdiction over vocational training".