

The Address—Mr. Mayer

then does his leader go about telling the people in Edmonton, for instance, that in Schefferville, 1,000 kilometers from my place, he could see that people in the constituency of Lac-Saint-Jean did not know Pierre Gimaiel, their Member of Parliament?

Was it not somewhat dishonest to tell people in Edmonton that Schefferville is near enough? You know, the only news we got from Schefferville in Lac Saint-Jean is when Duplessis opened it and when Mulroney closed it. These are the only news we got, so far away are they from each other. They are as far away as Manitoba is from Lac Saint-Jean. And I never understood the assertion the Hon. Member from Central Nova made in his speech to the effect that just because he lived in Quebec, Schefferville and Baie Comeau, he had become aware that the people in Lac Saint-Jean did not know their Member of Parliament, an absolute stranger. When Mr. Mulroney made that statement, he was not aware the Member—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please! I would remind the Hon. Member and all Hon. Members that Members should be referred to by their constituency or title.

Mr. Gimaiel: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. When the Hon. Member for Central Nova made his statement, he was in no position to know whether I was unknown or not. On the other hand, had he been in any way close to my constituency of Lac Saint-Jean, he would have learned the name of Pierre Gimaiel for 12 years, despite my young age, since I did not spend that time amassing a fortune by working for \$500,000 a year for big bosses in Toronto. I worked for my people, creating jobs more often than not for \$6,000 and \$10,000 a year, quite simply as an ordinary man. And this I remain, simply doing what I see as my duty. Intellectual integrity would have required that he at least check his facts before making a public statement. So he proved to what extent he can flout everything, trying to gain for himself the reputation of someone well informed. This I call intellectual dishonesty.

[English]

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment and ask the Hon. Member another question. He seems to be disturbed because our leader made reference to him in the great auditorium in Edmonton before 3,000 or 4,000 people. I was there and I listened. I do not know why the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean complains. Our Leader read exactly what the Hon. Member had said as reported in *Hansard*. If the Hon. Member does not want to be quoted, he should not speak and be recorded in *Hansard*. At the end, all the Member said was that he doubted very much whether the people of the constituency would go for that type of thing. They would not go for being a Communist just to be elected. That was the gist of it.

I have another point and perhaps the Hon. Member could deal with both points at the same time. This one is really along the lines of what the Hon. Member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer) has said, namely that no nation has a monopoly

on wisdom or technology. If we ever close our minds to the point where we cannot learn from someone we do not like or with whom we cannot agree, we will be denying ourselves.

I have no use for communism. I do not accept that philosophy. I could not live under it and I do not want to. I believe in free enterprise. I think communism kills initiative. But if the Communists came up with a cure for cancer, I would be foolish if I said that because the Communists have found a cure, I will not allow it to be used here. I would say that we should certainly take advantage of it. We can learn from them, but we do not have to accept their philosophy to do that.

• (1250)

[Translation]

Mr. Gimaiel: Mr. Speaker, what I did not accept in the first place—there are two things that prove the Leader of the Opposition's lack of intellectual integrity. First, he quoted only a small part of my speech. If he had quoted it all, not a single Conservative would ever have been re-elected in Edmonton. Second, he pretended that because he had lived in Quebec, he was in a position to say that my constituents did not know me—

[English]

I want to tell people, especially people from Edmonton, that when the Hon. Member for Central Nova was in Schefferville, he was 1,000 kilometres from my home city. He does not know anything about that city. He never went there. If he did, he did it so fast that no one saw him. He cannot tell the people that no one knows me in my area. That is what I mean when I say that it is not honest.

If the Hon. Member believes so strongly that we have to be respectful and discuss together, he should tell his Leader that he has to be honest when he speaks about a colleague in the House of Commons. Second, when he writes something, it is better to check first what he will write instead of trying to make people believe that he knows everything.

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Mr. Speaker, it is refreshing to have applause even from the other side. I wonder whether they will applaud me when I have concluded my remarks.

This is an interesting debate. It is the debate on the Throne Speech. At the outset, as have other Members, I want to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Deputy Speaker. I have had the opportunity of seeing you in the House in the years I have been here and congratulate you on your appointment.

I also want to pay tribute to Mr. Speaker who has done a good job. We certainly all wish him well. In the past he held the position of Deputy Speaker and did a good job. It is not an easy job, as you well know. If we are to live up to our potential as Members of Parliament, it is extremely important to have capable persons occupying the chair.