

*Supply*

the economy and job creation, were of interest and concern to the people. Last year, 430,000 jobs were created, and we are still creating more.

So, essentially, in everything that my colleague has been saying about the debt and the fact that Quebec would simply go and beg for these things in Ottawa, we can see that it is the Bloc Québécois that is trying to make sure Quebec is perceived that way. But that is totally untrue. Quebec has a large place in the Canadian federation. On the economic level, Quebec plays an extremely important role within the federation. And on this side of the House, we want to make sure that Quebec and the nine other provinces can first develop individually, but also within the Canadian federation and according to major international trends, that they can develop together and excel on the international scene. That is our goal and we will succeed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger):** Since there are only two minutes left, I will divide them between the question and the answer. I give the floor to the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

• (1540)

**Mr. Pierre Brien (Témiscamingue, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the speech of our friend from Outremont, who loved to pass out cheques for the infrastructure program, of which he spoke with a certain wistfulness. He also referred to my colleague of Longueuil who is a former Conservative. I would remind him that the latter at least had the courage to cross the floor and change sides. I hope the hon. member will have as much courage when the time comes to make decisions in the interest of Quebec, which he is supposed to represent.

My colleague said all sorts of things about decentralization. He chose a good example when he spoke of the Canada social transfer. Actually, it was the deficit that was decentralized. I hope he will rise in caucus to defend the interests of Quebec, because he should know that Quebec might have to bear more than 40 per cent of those cuts. I also hope, when he talks about the consensus in Quebec about manpower training, that he will be intelligent enough to look at what is really going on. The consensus is not only inside the Parti Québécois. Ghislain Dufour is not, as far as I know, a member of the Parti Québécois, and is not likely to become one in the near future. Yet, he was among those who said that manpower training should be the responsibility of the government of Quebec.

What positive action he intends to take in the coming weeks within his own party to defend the interests of Quebec on those two issues?

**Mr. Cauchon:** Mr. Speaker, when they hear things that do not please them, the members of the Bloc Québécois launch into personal attacks, saying such things as: "I hope my colleague for Outremont will be intelligent enough—" Obviously, what I

said does not suit him, because he is not hearing what he would like to hear from members on this side. He knows that what he is hearing from members on this side is also what the people want to hear.

As for the Canada social transfer and the human resources investment fund, I was among the members of Quebec who stood for these issues in the national caucus, and for two reasons. First, we are an economically responsible government. As such, we had to rationalize the programs to properly manage the debt and the deficit. Second, we had to decentralize as well, because that was what people were asking for. I was among those who championed these two programs. I am proud of it, and proud of what the government did.

**Mrs. Francine Lalonde (Mercier, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to participate in this debate on the official opposition's motion denouncing the excessive centralization of powers by the federal government, which is preparing, without saying anything and without consultations, a new, centralized Canada by passing at least the four bills we mentioned.

I will not repeat my colleagues' extremely important and interesting explanations on Bill C-88, Bill C-91 and Bill C-46. I, however, have a lot to say about the bill to implement the budget. But first, I would like to talk about unemployment and poverty in Quebec.

I want to explain why the sovereignists here in Ottawa and in Quebec want to achieve sovereignty, after all the years of repeatedly trying to convince others that Quebec needs more than crumbs and federal commissions. Because we are a people and a nation, we need control over Quebec's economic and social development. Let us talk about poverty. This year, Quebec won the award for poverty.

• (1545)

In its report released this year, the Family and Social Affairs Council showed that, in 1993, Quebec came first among poor provinces for the number and percentage of people and families living below the poverty line.

Last month, 803,900 people—372,000 households—were on welfare in Quebec. This figure includes people who are willing to work and a large number of children we are concerned about, because children raised with the bare minimum often lack what they need in life to develop normally.

Poverty has many causes but that is not what we hear because of the strong prejudices against poor people, who are already facing great difficulties. In summary, poverty is not only a lack of money but also a deep sense of failure, of insecurity, of vulnerability, of worthlessness. All additional failures, such as fruitless job searches, problems with the spouse or children, and