

*Interim Supply*

We are not promoting any division or discord. We are simply asking to be understood as we understand others in Canada.

If the nine other provinces want to take part in a joint program with the federal government, want to be taxed provincially by the federal government and receive in turn federal equalization payments, they are quite free to do so. We will not encroach on the freedom of those provinces. But we want the province of Quebec to be respected by all the other provinces, for Quebec has every reason to ask for what it is now requesting.

Mr. Chairman, certainly there are matters that should remain under federal jurisdiction—we do not dispute that—defence, for instance, must remain a federal concern, as must transport and finance.

However, if those areas stay under federal jurisdiction the government must then—whether it be the present government or the next government, regardless of its political tag—establish branch offices of the Bank of Canada in each and every Canadian province, with specific instructions to make financially possible, in those provinces, what it is physically possible and desirable for them.

You will then see that there will be no need for any ARDA plan, any strait-jacket or socialist or communist-minded plans in an attempt to cast everybody in the same mould. At that time you will see the provinces blossom out, not only the province of Quebec, but also the others, because everyone of them without exception is faced not with a constitutional problem, not with a theoretical problem, but with a problem that goes to the core, if you will, in that they are all beset by the financial question.

When those poor provinces meet in Ottawa with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) or with the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Secretary of State (Mr. Lamontagne) and all federal ministers, what is the subject of their discussions? Monetary matters? No, they discuss fiscal matters. Ottawa takes too big a share and does not leave us enough. Both levels of government argue about which of them is going to deprive individuals of part of the fruit of their labour, in one word, which of them is going to tax the people. That is what causes the imbrolios which occur at all federal-provincial conferences. The purely monetary question of Canadian credit, of bank credit is never discussed. They are content to play the fiscal game and to share the crumbs or the little money in circulation among the Canadian people.

[Mr. Caouette.]

Social Credit has been advocating a solution for a long time. I mentioned it the other day. There are those who find it ridiculous but these same people find rational the system with which we have to cope at present. The hon. member for Queens (Mr. Macquarrie) and others speak of national disunity, etc.

I read today on page 5 of *Le Devoir* that university students are meeting tonight at a dinner given in Toronto to study the evolution now taking place in English Canada. At the dinner tonight Mr. John Holmes will ask the following question: Is the commonwealth a factor of unification or of division?

Some suggest that the commonwealth constitutes an element of division while others say it is an element of unification. I personally think that each member nation of the commonwealth has the respect of the commonwealth as a whole and, therefore, that could constitute an element of union and not of division.

Certain countries, apart from Canada, for instance India, belong to the British commonwealth of nations, yet India is independent and amended its constitution several years ago; the same thing can be said of Ireland; in Africa, there are an increasing number of small countries remaining with the British commonwealth of nations while enjoying their full independence. Recently a small country, Zambia, obtained its independence or reached nationhood; in short, it became independent. In that country the first step taken, that is the selection of a flag, was not discussed as we see discussed here by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the Conservatives, the choice of a Canadian flag. Until recently, the union jack was the national flag of that country, but a distinctive flag was adopted, hoisted on public buildings and accepted as the distinctive national flag of that small country which has just reached its independence. The same thing happened in Jamaica. All those nations remain member countries of the British commonwealth of nations while remaining independent. They remain within the commonwealth because they feel they need to belong to an international organization which will help them and not oppress them.

Let Canada think along the same lines, let the federal members think in the same way, let us consider Canada as a sovereign state, part of the commonwealth, yes, but united and not divided, and where we would keep our own identity.

Yesterday I heard in an interview on the radio—"When I enter a social club, I do not