

*The Budget—Mr. Caouette*

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I point out to the hon. member that the hon. member for Villeneuve has the floor. He may not be interrupted except to be asked a question.

● (4:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I merely wanted to dot the i's and prove to the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) that what I said was true, that it really happened that way.

Now, I was speaking of the by-elections we have just had in the province of Quebec. In the riding of Hull, out of 44,000 voters, only 22,000 took advantage of their right to vote. Half the people stayed home in that riding. In Montreal, barely 20 to 22 per cent voted; 80 per cent stayed home. Is it that the people are pleased with the government? No. The people have had enough of politics, they will not have anything more to do with it. And, in the riding of Hull—

**Mr. Matte:** They should have voted Créditiste.

**Mr. Caouette:** I understand. The hon. member for Champlain says they should have voted Créditiste.

In the riding of Hull, we had as candidate René Villeneuve, a school principal; and the member for Champlain knows full well that Villeneuve was the best candidate in that riding, regardless of the fact that he was the candidate for the Social Credit party. He got almost 9,000 votes, that is more than in 1965, while the Liberals lost ground in all four ridings, and were beaten in Sudbury. The hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) said the other night on television, "The people are in favour of the Liberals." "The people voted liberal". Ah, come on. The people stayed home, they did not vote. In Hull, a Liberal riding for 75 years, the candidate elected got only three thousand some hundred votes majority while the Liberal majority in 1965 was over 9,000 votes. The electors who did not vote thought they were doing well, but they lost a wonderful opportunity of giving themselves a representative who would fight against the system, instead of the men.

I have nothing personal against Pierre Caron, who was elected in the Hull riding. He is one who deserves respect. He is a young man; he has qualities and I will never belittle him as a citizen. But, as far as the system is

[Mr. Caouette.]

concerned, I assure you that I will not go for that easily.

The same applies in the case of the Liberal candidate elected in Richelieu-Verchères—people did not take the trouble of going out to vote. At any rate, those people certainly did not approve of the present situation, for it can lead nowhere but an increased national debt and ever-increasing difficulties to live decently in a country which, after all, is bursting with natural resources.

**Mr. Lachance:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Caouette:** Yes.

**Mr. Lachance:** What does the hon. member have to say about the 25 per cent only of the population who voted in the last municipal election in Montreal? Does it mean that the people were not satisfied with Mayor Drapeau of Montreal?

**Mr. Caouette:** No, no. But there you say: "People were not satisfied". Well it is the irresponsible people that remained at home, those who are not conscious of their responsibilities, those who are too lazy to get up and go. And there are thousands of them in the city of Montreal. I am going to arrange for a meeting and I shall tell them so at their own face, too. That is the city of Montreal! You wanted to know what I think of it, that is it. They are too callous, they lack the courage to stand up and vote for someone or against someone. If they were satisfied with Mayor Drapeau, they should have gone to tell him: "We are pleased with you, Mr. Drapeau."

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must advise the hon. member for Villeneuve that the time allotted to him has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** I only need about two minutes. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank very sincerely my hon. friends in the house for allowing me to continue my remarks, I shall not take very long.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Villeneuve wish to continue?

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.