

with a decreased salary. I entirely disagree with such views. We have witnessed in our educational institutions, in our colleges and universities, students whose health has been ruined by over work, men hardly having reached ripe age, become sometimes the victims of this brain overwork. I think there is, at present, legislation being enacted which will force a class of workers, who are worthy of all our sympathy and who certainly earn their salaries to adopt this manner of living. We have no right to enforce such legislation.

I intend to vote against this measure, because, in my opinion, economy no more than efficiency are at stake. I am rather inclined to think that it is a sign of an approaching election, that the present administration, already on its last leg, wish to erect themselves a small monument to remind us of its regime, in case they were refused a return ticket at the next election.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): It must then be a popular measure?

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): This has no resemblance whatever to a measure.

Mr. DESLAURIERS (Translation): Previous to closing my remarks, sir, may I quote an excerpt from the speech of the hon. member for Labelle, who I have always had in esteem and still have:

I ask the hon. member for Ottawa, but in particular the hon. members for the city of Montreal. When this measure is explained to their constituents, what figure will they cut? When their constituents are starving, fathers have no bread to give to their family, will they boast of having voted in the house to allow fifteen gentlemen, some of them bachelors, to earn \$4,000, in five or six months, so that they may rest seven months? They will soon find out what French Canadians think of this so-called claim of race rights.

I have never thought for a moment that the French Canadian race was in jeopardy owing to this bill; it is perhaps entangled, as in the past, in various classifications and reorganizations, that is possible, but it is not in jeopardy. If such had been the case, it would have happened before now; more than ever French Canadian cooperation must act in concert with that of the English Canadians to attain success and prosperity.

Since the hon. member for Labelle delivered his speech, like similar literature, it has travelled around. I communicated with my own constituents so as to find out their views on the matter, but more especially, to find out whether my life was threatened. I can state to the house that my constituents are in no way upset over the brilliant speech delivered

[Mr. Deslauriers.]

by my hon. friend on this question. This is in a few words what they think: It would be more appropriate for him to utilize his great gift to solve more serious problems which are of more interest to us, such as whether profiteers will be allowed to sell us coal at \$18 or \$20 per ton, when the thermometer registers 35° below zero, when direct assistance is insufficient, forcing us to cut down the rations of our wife and children and barely saving them from freezing.

The milk and bread trusts are especially making my people uneasy. They wonder whether the government through its Federal Relief Act is not able to find means to raise their morale. They wonder whether there are in the house orators who can shake the walls with the echo of their voice so as to force the government to adopt means to sustain life and afford them a livelihood, especially at present, and the possibility of having on May 1st—

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): Then, you contend that the hon. member for Labelle has not carried out his duty?

Mr. DESLAURIERS (Translation): I would request the hon. member to speak in his turn.

The people of St. Mary's wish to know whether, on May 1st, they will be among the 50,000 heads of families having no other lodgings—because the city of Montreal or governments will not have paid the rent due to the landlords—having no other lodgings than the stars above.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): There is no mention of this in the bill.

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): Take things easily, now.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): It is the hon. member who is out of sorts.

Mr. DESLAURIERS (Translation): Mr. Speaker, there still remains to find out whether we are going to uphold the French and English races in this country—

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): The race will survive, have no fear.

Mr. DESLAURIERS (Translation): — whether we shall promote peace and give them a livelihood and especially, protect them against profiteers. That is what I intend to do, at the opportune time.

Hon. MAURICE DUPRE (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, before entering into a discussion of the question, it is needless for me to remind anyone, in the house and, I