

*The Address—Mr. Poulin*

the central government has something to do with education and culture may well be responsible for encouraging that same government to deform and even to vitiate that which the provincial authority—the rights of which it has usurped—had been entrusted with, to keep, consolidate and perfect.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to state publicly that if I have mentioned here the name of Rev. Father Levesque, it was in his capacity as a member of a commission appointed by the government to deal with a matter of public interest. As the representative of a county it is my right and even my duty, I believe, to concern myself with that matter because I represent here parents who after all have the first say in the matter of the education of their children. I wish to assure Rev. Father Levesque and everybody, including the hon. member for Bonaventure, that after having accomplished a duty which was painful to me, I still have for that distinguished member of the clergy and for all other members of the clergy the same profound respect and the very high consideration that I have always tried to show them much more by my deeds than by my words.

May I add a few more words in reply to an allegation which was made in this house on November 19 by the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Masse) and which is found at page 1171 of *Hansard*:

When I see that for political reasons—

Such words evidently struck me.

—the words of that worthy representative are quoted and an attempt is made to contradict them and to make people believe that he no longer holds his former beliefs, I am dumbfounded.

Mr. Speaker, I shall answer that by declaring that no political reasons have prompted the few remarks I am making today.

I am fairly well acquainted with the member for Kamouraska. I esteem greatly that very fine gentleman. He is a university professor who honours his faculty.

I am sure that he did not mean to be unfair and that his words went beyond his thoughts. Otherwise I would be compelled to quote good old Boileau:

Can so much venom enter into the soul of such a sanctimonious man?

Mr. Speaker, I realize that, in endeavouring to be brief on this matter of the Massey commission, I have not by far covered the whole ground. I trust, at least, I have not been unfair to anyone.

[Mr. Poulin.]

**Mr. Balcer:** Would the member for Beauce allow me a question? When he said, a few moments ago, that the members of the present government were favourably inclined towards the minorities, did he have in mind the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton)?

**Mr. Poulin:** I may have been misunderstood. When I said the present government was favourably inclined, it was mostly as regards education.

**Mr. Edgar Leduc (Jacques Cartier):** Mr. Speaker, it had not been my intention to take part in the debate on the speech from the throne. If I do so now, it is to give my views on two questions that have been discussed at some length in this house. I mean inflation and price controls.

May I first be permitted to associate myself with the congratulations previous speakers have tendered to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne (Messrs. Cauchon and Simmons). They were well deserved congratulations and I am indeed proud and happy to repeat them personally.

We have heard members of the opposition talk about inflation and the high cost of living. They have even suggested resorting to controls, on the grounds that they were in force and proving beneficial in the United States.

According to many economists, price controls would prove neither useful nor commendable, in view of the widespread effects of the rise in prices in all countries. Only the people can put a stop to it.

What are the causes of inflation?

Who is adversely affected by it and to what extent? What can we do to put an end to it?

Inflation is not the cause of high prices. It is a result of price increases. Unless this fact is clearly understood by the millions of people concerned, their efforts to check inflation will be futile. Even economists cannot agree amongst themselves on a definition. Inflation is a result of the fact that people at the present time have enough money to buy many more goods than are available.

The amount of money available has tripled in ten years, while the production of goods has only doubled.

Thomas B. McCabe, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has said:

Price and wage controls only serve to hide the source of inflation. There is a danger in that. By concealing the source, there is a tendency to weaken the people's will to get at the real cause of the evil. That is the danger today.