

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

The Members across the way are laughing. There are 211 of them. The Hon. Member for Beauharnois—Salaberry (Mr. Hudon) is laughing, but I can tell you something, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Hudon:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Parliamentary Secretary has the floor.

**Mr. Hudon:** Mr. Speaker, it really bothers me on this side of the House when I hear my hon. friend opposite. I have the impression that if he speaks long enough, he will end up saying something, and I would like to hear it.

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, you will agree that this was not very bright, but then people did not know them before they elected them. So he has just showed, and was not the first to do so . . . but I can predict that he will not be there come the next elections, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. I hope the Hon. Member will get back to debate and talk about the Bill and not about attendance in the House, please.

[Translation]

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, I was indeed responding to the point of order, and you agreed with me that what he just did was stupid.

Mr. Speaker, coming back to the guillotine proposed by this Government to end the debate, we just saw the Hon. Member for Beauharnois—Salaberry (Mr. Hudon) who just rose. It is easy to gag the House, but it is a shame for the Government to rise and speak. So he has nothing intelligent to say. But, Mr. Speaker, there are others here—and the fact that they are Conservatives has nothing to do with that take the Hon. Member for Chateauguay (Mr. Lopez)—he is a good Member, intelligent, and I would like to know what he thinks about that. Instead of going through such antics as did the Hon. Member for Beauharnois—Salaberry, certainly he could enlighten us, and perhaps after hearing his explanations we might say: Of course, maybe it could do for a year, and next year we will negotiate, the Government was right in doing this or that.

But no. There are no discussions, although they brag about enhancing co-operation with the provinces. Mr. Speaker, all the provinces disagree with the measure. The Quebec Government has had to impose a special tax on firms and corporations to cover the \$66 million gap in equalization payments being received from the federal Government. There was a meeting here at 2 p.m. this afternoon between Mr. Ciaccia and Mr. Sinclair Stevens concerning the Matane paper mill, because that project is not proceeding because of lack of federal funds as usual paid to the provinces.

Mr. Speaker, equalization involves payments from government to government, but it also implies payments from citizens to citizens. And with the arrangements that were reached in the areas of health care and post-secondary education the people of this country—the rich provinces at the expense of the poor provinces—would know when someone paid taxes to the federal Government, that there was some redistribution to help the less favoured in other provinces through post-secondary education or health care.

Mr. Speaker, you are indicating that my time has almost expired. Again I would like to give an opportunity to the Hon. Member for Beauharnois—Salaberry. He uttered mere stupidities, but I feel he could contribute intelligently to the debate.

I am convinced that the Hon. Member for Chateauguay (Mr. Lopez) would have something brilliant to say as well as the Member for Charlesbourg (Mrs. Tardif), the Hon. Member for Brome—Missisquoi (Mrs. Bertrand) the Hon. Member for Montmorency—Orléans (M<sup>me</sup> Blouin) whom we do not know. My colleague for l'Assomption, I think, is competent enough as far as the Gulf issue is concerned. Mr. Speaker, in concluding I invite those Members to defend the interests of Quebecers.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order. I always like to hear the Hon. Member speak on debate, but his time has expired.

• (1450)

Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The question is on the motion of the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis):

That the question be now put.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** In my opinion, the yeas have it.

*And more than five Members having risen:*