

Oral Questions

separation, but they will begin to believe it, Mr. Speaker, if the rest of the country does not understand the conditions under which Quebec will stay in confederation, and these are the conditions that this government has been preaching and trying to follow for the past year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister. In agreeing that the premier of Quebec said on television that what he wanted to provide was good government to the people of Quebec, and did not argue that separatism was required for that, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would not also agree that Mr. Lévesque won his election on a social democratic program which he referred to—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Cheap political talk.

Mr. Broadbent: He referred to the program—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: It was Marc Lalonde's program.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The questions obviously demanding and attracting the attention of the lead questioners of parties on the opposition side should certainly not be set aside by the Chair in view of their importance and tremendous momentary impact. However, up to the moment I have listened to the questions carefully to make sure that they would elicit information from the Prime Minister in respect of his position, but, having regard to the last question, it would obviously elicit information about an event outside the administrative responsibility of the Prime Minister.

SUGGESTION FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC POLICIES TO KEEP CANADA UNITED

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I will try to get the information. Would the Prime Minister agree that Mr. Lévesque's appeal in respect of the Official Languages Act played no role in the official campaign of the Parti Québécois, but that in complete contrast what played the central role was the need for government programs that would deal with unemployment, with housing and with fair taxation? If the Prime Minister agrees with that, would he not agree that it is time the national government of Canada concerned itself with these programs that do affect the people of Quebec as well as elsewhere?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the national government pursues as best it can, in difficult economic times, the policies that we as the federal government

[Mr. Trudeau.]

feel appropriate for this country, and the results are still continuing—

Mr. Broadbent: And you lost Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there has not been a federal election in Quebec in the last three years. The federal election was in July 1974 and we won that election in Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You wouldn't today, Pierre.

Mr. Trudeau: The Quebec election was lost by a provincial government—

● (1430)

Mr. Broadbent: With your program.

Mr. Hees: With your help, and it was a Liberal government.

Mr. Trudeau: The party which lost was not preaching separatism but better government. I am not surprised that this party chooses to identify itself with the social democratic label. I am happy if it makes the Leader of the New Democratic Party happy. I remember a couple of years ago when the New Democratic premier of British Columbia described Mr. Lévesque, separatist as he was, as a great Canadian. This is not our view. We feel that he is not a great Canadian.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: He may have won an election on a good government policy. We will try to win the next election in Quebec and elsewhere on our programs and on our performances.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): God help us!

Mr. Trudeau: That will be the test in the next federal election, but I completely disagree with the inference put forward by the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

* * *

[Translation]

FINANCE

SUGGESTION BANK OF CANADA GRANT INTEREST FREE LOANS TO PROVINCES

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would also put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Last night, we all witnessed the premier of a Canadian province talking to American financiers about financial matters and about his program, not at all about linguistic problems. Mr. Speaker, to be faithful to the propositions that Réal Caouette used to make to maintain a united Canada when he said that we should finance the provinces and help them develop the public sector. Given those circumstances, would