

The Budget—Mr. Grégoire

Mr. Speaker, I was saying that in Ottawa and in Quebec there are two income tax collection systems—

Mr. Lewis: Louder.

Mr. Grégoire: And that—do you want me to move the adjournment—we are the only ones in the world to accept such a situation.

Mr. Chrétien: It is the voice of God, you had better keep quiet.

Mr. Grégoire: Administrative duplication, duplication of funds to do exactly the same thing can be found also in other fields. For instance, the administration of the winter work program. The Quebec government has set up that department to check and see if the works have been carried out, if the men have been paid at least those who are supposed to work—and when Quebec has finished its inspection, the file for each municipality is sent to Ottawa where exactly the same inspection starts all over again for the same purposes. Therefore, we always pay twice. We pay twice more taxes because we have to pay for two administrative services which overlap.

Mr. Speaker, our country is the only one in the world with two ministers of health, one in Quebec and one in Ottawa; two ministers of justice, one in Quebec and one in Ottawa, who get in each other's way. In fact when Quebec citizens make representations to the federal Minister of Justice (Mr. Trudeau) requesting an investigation into fraudulent bankruptcies for instance, the minister replies: That does not come under my jurisdiction only, it is partly the responsibility of the Quebec minister of justice. On the other hand, when Quebec citizens make representations to the provincial minister of justice, he also replies that he cannot do anything because that comes also under the jurisdiction of the federal Minister of Justice. Because there are two of them, they get in each other's way, and we are paying twice.

We are also the only ones to have two ministers of finance, two ministers of national revenue and to always have to pay in two places for exactly the same thing. We are the only country in the world to have two different civil services to do exactly the same thing. Hospital insurance is shared fifty-fifty by Ottawa and Quebec. On account of that, the government in Ottawa must provide a whole staff to operate this service and Quebec has to hire a different one to do

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exactly the same work on behalf of the Quebec government. We are always paying twice.

The Minister of Finance finds that the civil service is increasing. How is he going to solve the problem? Well, the best way to do it, and without disturbing in any way the services, is to put an immediate stop to the dual administration and to give back to Quebec what comes under provincial jurisdiction, under the British North America Act. We have two administration levels which cost us twice the amount required, two levels of government which cause delays precisely because they do not agree all the time and are working at odds with one another.

That is why many here have come to the conclusion that we are two nations.

Since decisions are taken in two different places, responsibilities overlap and that doubles the administration costs.

Some people say that we are two nations. So we adopt two flags, the maple leaf flag and the Union Jack. We also adopt two national anthems: O Canada and God Save the Queen, because it is said we are two nations and, in that case, two national anthems are called for.

Last Saturday at the beginning of the Grey cup game, I heard on the C.B.C. French network the announcer say: And now here is our national anthem. And what did I hear? God Save the Queen, our national anthem? That was one nation's anthem. This was happening in Ottawa, in an English-speaking province. It was said that our national anthem was God Save the Queen, right on television in the presence of the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Pearson). That was said to be the national anthem of one of the two founding peoples. They talk about two peoples and they talk of national unity. How can they speak of national unity while claiming, in one and the same breath, that there are two founding nations? When there are two nations it is not a question of national unity but of international unity. If it is international unity, there are perforce two states. It is high time to recognize these facts Mr. Speaker.

Since we are on the budget, I should like to raise a point because I think that there are unnecessary expenditures in that area which the government could cut back slightly to achieve better results.

I should like to speak of the economic aspect of winter navigation on the St. Lawrence river which the government could