

The hon. member refers to the special CMHC housing projects. The money granted a few weeks ago was for special projects that were based on submissions. Perhaps the hon. member could inquire if the province of Quebec made any submissions for modern day housing, for further insulation, for new arrangements and architectural designs that were conducive to more efficient housing as we move into the 21st century.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Gagnon (Québec):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for her comments. I will try to find out whether there were any submissions from Quebec. What I know is that I received at my office a letter from the CMHC saying there were no housing starts in Quebec under the program mentioned. I will find out more about that.

[English]

**Mr. Pat O'Brien (London—Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what history the hon. member opposite studied when she makes her remarks, but I know I am not unfamiliar with the history of the province of Quebec.

Like all provinces Quebec has benefited enormously from being a partner in Confederation. Quebec has certainly benefited financially.

Is the hon. member not aware that when one considers equalization payments, the province of Quebec has seen more tax dollars flow to it than have flown out of that province? Is she completely unaware of the enormous financial benefit that has accrued to the province of Quebec from the other provinces of Confederation?

[Translation]

**Mrs. Gagnon (Québec):** Mr. Speaker, let us say that we do not have the same figures. The figures I have on social housing show that, since 1986, the difference in grants for social housing, between Quebec and other provinces, varies between 10 and 13 per cent.

This is not the only area in which Quebec does not get its fair share. There are others. I do not think we have the same book.

[English]

**Mr. O'Brien:** Mr. Speaker, if I might pursue this, I think perhaps we are starting to get somewhere. We are hearing a Bloc member who is willing to admit, if I heard the hon. member correctly, that perhaps she was not looking at the whole picture. I would submit it is time that the hon. member did that. It is time all members of the Bloc did that. It is time they understood what other Canadians understand.

Most of us are very pleased to have the province of Quebec as part of Canada. Quite frankly we feel that Quebecers will always choose to remain a part of Confederation. The statistics are unchallengeable. Quebec has benefited far more from taxes going to it as a province in this Confederation than it has paid

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out when one considers all fiscal arrangements in its totality. If the hon. member is unaware of that I would be happy to share those statistics with her.

• (1715)

[Translation]

**Mrs. Gagnon (Québec):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the debate today is on social housing. It would take more than two minutes to list for the hon. member all the areas where Quebec was short-changed. I do not say he is right. I urge all my colleagues from the Bloc to give the hon. member the right answers. Whether it be research and development or agriculture, we know very well that Quebec is not always well served by the federal system.

Take my riding for instance. I had two giant candidates running against me on October 25, but despite all the good things they promised would come from the federal system, the people of the Quebec riding said: "No, we do not want to relive what we went through all those years". This is a debate we may have some day in the House, but not now.

**Mr. Pierre de Savoye (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, we are talking about social housing, we are talking about people in need, and it should be clearly understood, contrary to what was just said, that Quebec receives as much money as it is putting in, around \$28 billion. Quebec taxpayers pay \$28 billion to Ottawa and receive in return \$28 billion from Ottawa. It is their money. But the way it comes back to them has a direct impact on social housing. This money comes back mainly as unemployment insurance and transfer payments for public assistance, instead of coming back as research and development contracts or other types of government contracts which would create jobs, as is the case in Ontario and other provinces.

We can see, first of all, that there is absolutely no preferential treatment for Quebec. It only receives what it puts in. But Quebec is treated less fairly because the quality of the money it gets back is inferior compared to other provinces, and that has a direct impact on social housing.

Would my colleague, the member for Québec, care to comment?

**Mrs. Gagnon (Québec):** Mr. Speaker, I agree with these comments. Indeed, the facts we are presenting are very important. The money the federal government returns to Quebec takes the form of unemployment insurance and social housing funding, and we do not get our fair share. Therefore, I believe that we should ask for a debate, in this House, to see item by item, issue by issue, how Quebec feels in this so-called fair system.

**Mr. Réal Ménard (Hochelaga—Maisonneuve):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member had the courage, and we must be grateful to him for it, of turning the debate to broader considerations. I think that we could agree with him, if he wants to engage in that exercise—I am inclined to think that he is an avid reader—I