

*The Budget—Mr. Coates*

Indeed, we should be initiating discussions with the government of the United States so that we could co-operate in producing the engineering technology that would allow for the production of tidal energy at both Passamaquoddy Bay and in the Bay of Fundy. We should be working also with the United States to see if we could help it produce much needed power from the Dickey-Lincoln complex in the State of Maine. Rather than emphasizing our independence, which might please a small clique in this nation mostly in the Toronto area of Ontario, we should be striving to help each other find ways to eliminate the oil blackmail that has become so destructive to most of the economies of the nations of this world which have proven to be friends of Canada through thick and thin.

When speaking of international blackmail, may I support the position of my party against the possible approval of delegates of the PLO attending a United Nations conference in Toronto. Premier William Davis has indicated his strong opposition against delegates from the PLO attending this conference. While I can appreciate that the Palestine refugees should have a voice, I do not believe it should be the voice of a terrorist organization. Indeed, I had hoped the PLO would have taken the sound advice of President Sadat of Egypt and have initiated the establishment of a provisional government that would not have associated with it the stigma of the PLO, and the international gangsterism that has come with the highjackings and murders all over the world. Surely, this meeting which is concerned justice and law reform has little in common with the past activities of the PLO.

At the same time, I want to urge the government to use some common sense in its dealings with the government of Taiwan. Anyone who has visited that island nation could come away with only admiration and appreciation. It is a democracy in every sense of the word. Its people are industrious and determined to build a nation on the teachings of Dr. Sun Yat Sen. Its achievements in less than 30 years have to be one of the phenomena of the twentieth century. The people there are realistic and appreciate that Canada cannot follow a two-China policy in the light of world events. But they do not seek diplomatic relations, only a relationship similar to that provided by the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, or, if you wish to get closer to home, similar to that provided by Japan. Surely, the Canadian government and the Canadian people owe nothing to communism. Our country has been populated by people who have escaped from communism. Are we to be frightened by some imaginary action of the Maoists? It was not too long ago that we had to feed their starving people with our wheat. That does not mean they should be dictating our foreign policy, especially with people who were our friends during World War II. It would be to our mutual advantage to have trading offices established in our two nations and this should happen at the earliest possible moment. Rather than racing around trying to establish diplomatic relations with new communist regimes, we should be trying to work out a satisfactory relationship with old friends who believe in democracy and freedom.

I should like to take a moment or two to talk about bilingualism. It seemed passing strange to me to hear the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Watson) on Friday after-

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noon express his concern about the money being expended by the government to send federal civil servants and their families from Ottawa to other places such as Quebec City, Switzerland, France or somewhere else. There have been many junkets of different kinds, if I may call them that, so that people might take courses in bilingualism. As I say, I found it passing strange to hear that comment from a Liberal member of parliament because not too long ago if someone in this House were critical on that point he would have been labelled either a bigot or a racist. He would have been condemned for being opposed to bilingualism.

It was also passing strange to hear the Commissioner of Official Languages recommend the use of the school systems of this nation to promote bilingualism. This comes very close to what the hon. member for Moncton (Mr. Jones) has been saying for a long time. He has been saying that the best way to promote bilingualism in this nation is through the school systems of the nation. It is good to hear the Commissioner of Official Languages state that we must use our school systems in order to work out the best possible method to promote bilingualism and to make Canadians in this nation comfortable in either official language.

I say the government must come clean with the Canadian people so far as the cost of bilingualism is concerned. It must tell the Canadian people which of the programs is working and which is not working. The government must seek advice from members of parliament of all political parties on how they believe bilingualism can best be implemented in this country—in a way with which everyone will agree and with which they will feel comfortable. I find that one of the difficulties insofar as the developing of bilingualism in Canada is concerned is the fact that there are not sufficient satisfactory French teachers in English-speaking Canada to teach our young people in our schools who really want to learn a second language.

We must convince the government that the French language should be taught from grade one forward, rather than as is the case in Nova Scotia from grade seven forward. I faced this problem when my children were very young. There was a French-speaking teacher who had some spare time and wanted to make some extra money. I put my daughter and son in her classes before they were even ready to go to school. She taught them the rudiments of that language. I can say without hesitation that both my son and daughter, unlike myself, have been very successful with the French language in our school system because of that early education.

● (1530)

If this government wants to convince people that bilingualism is important to all Canadians, it should start with the young people of this country. They are the ones most enthusiastic about it. A person half way through his career in the public service of Canada, past the age where it is easy to learn a second language, should not have his career jeopardized unless he tries to learn a second language. Even if he tries, he will not succeed. If he does not succeed, he will be impeded. Rather than bother that person, we should start with the youth of our nation.

The province of Quebec has a special responsibility. The teachers in that province should be encouraged to fan out