

even wants to compete with Montreal and Toronto. Indeed, it wants to be the Vancouver of the Atlantic coast.

As a footnote, I had the honour, in 1972, of cutting the ribbon on behalf of the Government of Canada for the major new addition at the Halifax International Airport. Even at that time there were great prognostications about the future of Halifax as an international airport.

No one in the regions of the country wants to opt out of the responsibility of paying our way. All we want is for the system to be fair and equitable and for all regions of the country to have an equal opportunity to develop. That is exactly what section 36 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, is all about. For your edification I would like to close by quoting Part III, section 36 (1) with respect to equalization and regional disparities:

Without altering the legislative authority of Parliament or of the provincial legislatures, or the rights of any of them with respect to the exercise of their legislative authority, Parliament and the legislatures, together with the government of Canada and the provincial governments, are committed to

(a) promoting equal opportunities for the well-being of Canadians;

(b) furthering economic development to reduce disparity in opportunities; and

(c) providing essential public services of reasonable quality to all Canadians.

That is all we ask, honourable senators.

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, this week the Senate has missed a marvellous opportunity to stand for principle instead of political expediency. We have before us a bill which, for absolutely non-partisan reasons, we had every reason to return to the House of Commons. That advice came to us from an independent government official responsible to Parliament, the Commissioner of Official Languages.

The Senate had an opportunity to show the independence which it ought to have, an opportunity to do something for the good of Canada, and we missed that opportunity.

[*Translation*]

I am even more disappointed with the position taken by my French-speaking colleagues, except for Senator Simard and Senator Bélisle, and particularly with my colleagues from Quebec who maybe do not need the Official Languages Act as much as we do.

Its one thing for you to chose to ignore those of us from outside Quebec who have been fighting for a long time through serious hardship, but for you to vote against something vital for us is something else altogether; it is disastrous.

Those of you on the other side who believe in the Official Languages Act, if you do believe, how can you act in such a way?

You know that you will have nothing to say if we, the people from outside Quebec, adopt as our motto the one we see on your licence plates: "I remember". This being said—

[*English*]

I do not agree with this bill in any case. This is a further attempt by the government to dismantle systems in Canada which are necessary in Canada. We are not the United States—either in tradition, in business concepts, in geography or in economic problems.

● (1530)

We are a linear country with small outlying pockets of population and one big pocket in central Canada. We cannot expect to run things in this country the same way as the Americans do. That is the reason that Canada over the years has had government involvement. We have said we simply cannot operate the same way as the Americans; we simply cannot operate in a pure market economy.

With this bill we will have more Americanization and more damage to the weaker regions, such as the Maritimes and the region of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Once again, this is only to the advantage of the big provinces.

[*Translation*]

I sit down, but I won't forget.

[*English*]

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, it is moved by the Honourable Senator Grimard, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lavoie-Roux, that Bill C-15 be read the third time.

Will those honourable senators in favour of the motion please say "yea"?

**Some Hon. Senators:** Yea.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Will those honourable senators who are against the motion please say "nay".

**Some Hon. Senators:** Nay.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** In my opinion, the "yeas" have it. *And two honourable senators having risen.*

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Please call in the senators.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Let the doors to the chamber be locked.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed, on the following division.