

in patronage. They beat the other guys and now they were top dog.

An Hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Malépart: But when the interests of the province of Quebec are at stake . . . We see that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Lévesque and Mr. Bourassa have levied a special tax on businesses because the federal Government cut \$66 million from its equalization payments to the province.

As in every other case, Mr. Speaker, our beloved Prime Minister who is visiting Tokyo—our national master of ceremonies—said, with his hand on his heart: I promise you will not lose a cent. But in the future, the people . . . He did the same thing to the elderly. Remember what Mrs. Denis told him: Charlie Brown, you lied to us! He said the same thing to any number of people, and the provincial Governments have just been given a taste of the same thing.

The people listening to us today and Hon. Members in the House know perfectly well that it doesn't mean much when our beloved Prime Minister puts his hand on his heart.

An Hon. Member: He doesn't have one!

An Hon. Member: He has no heart!

Mr. Malépart: As my hon. colleague said, he doesn't have one, Mr. Speaker. He puts his hand on his jacket.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a Conservative Member would stand up and tell us why he does not want to debate this Bill. Would it be that he does not agree with the Bill, that he is against it, that he thinks it is a shame that Quebecers are penalized once again, particularly since the Government recently had to find some money to help western Canada? It is as though Quebec were not even on the map. What is the use of defending the province? What are the Conservative Members doing here? I can remember that the former Member for Champlain did not hesitate to speak up. As everyone remembers, Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois was a staunch defender of farmers and Quebecers.

An Hon. Member: He will be back!

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, why is it that not a single Conservative Member and Minister . . . True enough, the Ministers from Quebec get \$40,000 more and ride in limousines, but their only job is to attend official ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Ribbon-cutting is the only responsibility left to the Minister of State (Youth) (Mrs. Champagne). She gets \$40,000 and a limousine to do that, Mr. Speaker, but what we are talking about is very important.

Our colleague from Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) has introduced an important amendment. Hon. Members ought to be able to stand up and convince their colleagues, at least those who are from Quebec. I can understand the Members from western Canada because they had all kinds of goodies, Mr. Speaker. But their Quebec colleagues never did get anything. There was Hyundai, but it was the Minister's wife who reaped

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all the benefits. Quebec lost everything. We ended up with nothing. And when I see . . . Mr. Speaker, you are signalling there are two. Not two, but 58! When the Member for Duvernay came on the scene he said he would make the oil multinationals toe the line. Gas prices went up. Do you know what he did? He bought . . . He changed business and bought a Mr. Muffler franchise. And he muffled the 58 Quebec Members—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Let us get back to Bill C-96.

Mr. Malépart: Indeed, Mr. Speaker, they have been fitted with mufflers, they are unable to speak to Bill C-96. I would like to know why they cannot talk about it. Is it because they agree with the Bill? They are ashamed of their convictions and do not dare say so? Or would it be that they are against the Bill but are afraid of their leader? They are afraid of the Prime Minister or of the Deputy Prime Minister? Stand up on your own two feet! Show some guts! Quebecers are not afraid of anything! Be brave. Stand up, you are either for or against the Bill.

I saw a program where the Hon. Member for Blainville—Deux Montagnes (Mrs. Landry) was heard to say: We the women of the Conservative Party will be there to make decisions, not to have a good time. Mr. Speaker, she did not stand up once to defend her interests. While we are debating, she reads and nods. She should have the courage to rise and speak up.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by reminding my Quebec Conservative colleagues and friends that in 1979 there were six Quebec Members in the corner over there, six *Créditistes* Members who did not have enough courage to speak up one way or another. They remained glued to their seats. The electors simply turfed them out. That is what is coming, I hope that is what will happen to you.

• (1720)

[English]

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, we are currently debating a motion that this House declines to proceed with a Bill, the principle of which is to reduce unilaterally payments by the federal Government to the provinces for vital health care and post-secondary education services.

There are a number of things which are very much wrong with this Bill. I do not think we can stress too often one of the most serious failures of the Bill, that is, through this Bill the Government is proceeding unilaterally to cut some \$8 billion out of moneys which would otherwise go to the provinces for worth-while programs such as health care and post-secondary education. The Government may argue that this measure was already announced, or at least foreshadowed in its May, 1985 Budget, but that is not really the case. The Budget Speech did refer to a reduction of the federal EPF contributions, but made no mention of the date on which it would take effect. If one refers to Table 2.1 of the fiscal plan and Table 2, Chapter 5, of