

● (1430)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The Hon. Member has been here for close to two years.

Mr. Gauthier: More than that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): More than that. I have no intention of lecturing the Hon. Member, but I wish he would maintain decorum and not count the other Members in this Chamber. *s'il vous plaît*.

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I was counting those to whom I want to speak. I do not want to address people who are not here, so I shall speak to the eight Quebec Members who are in the House. If the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) had not gotten excited—and I am addressing myself mostly to these people since they are supposed to defend Quebecers.

I am not blaming the other Quebec Members who are absent, but I am now addressing the Hon. Member for LaSalle—

Mr. Lanthier: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) on a point of order.

Mr. Lanthier: Mr. Speaker, we have an excellent representation of Quebec Members in this House today. We do not need the lessons of the Members opposite. I believe that it is out of order for the Hon. Member to refer to the presence of Members as he is now doing.

● (1440)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order. I appreciate what is happening. I know it is Friday afternoon, but, please, let us just get back to debate and enjoy each other here in this Chamber.

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I was mentioning the Quebec Members who are present because I would like them to wake up. I have the feeling that I have succeeded in the case of the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier).

Mr. Speaker, what we would like is for the Hon. Member for Brome—Missisquoi (Mrs. Bertrand) and the Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne) to rise to defend the interests of Quebecers.

My colleague for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) has told us exactly how much money Quebec will be losing. This money would not go into the trust fund of the Government. It would be used to provide health care and post-secondary education for the people of Quebec. I think that it would be a good thing and that the population of Quebec would be proud and happy if the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier), the Hon. Member for Beauharnois—Salaberry (Mr. Hudon), the Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne), the Hon. Member for

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l'Assomption, the Hon. Member for Châteauguay (Mr. Lopez) and the Hon. Member for Brome—Missisquoi (Mrs. Bertrand) were to rise and say: For my part, I agree with the fact that Federal Government is cutting back millions of dollars from its transfer payments to Quebec for health care. Or else, they should simply rise and say: Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the Government that these amounts should be cut back.

Mr. Speaker, Conservative Members have said that this is because of the deficit. But when the Government tabled a \$1 billion Bill in this House to rescue some one hundred individuals in Western Canada who had \$60,000 deposits in a bank account, the Hon. Members whom I have just mentioned never stood up in the House to say: I am against this Bill, because we must reduce the deficit. On the contrary, they stood up and said: I support this Bill, Mr. Speaker, for we must save these institutions. We must save banking institutions; as for ordinary citizens, it is not serious. What we are trying to do here is not to save hospital buildings, but to save the people—including some of us, who knows—who might get seriously ill and be forced to seek health care in a hospital.

Mr. Speaker, health care standards . . . Yesterday, you saw on TV . . . In the province of Quebec, in Montreal, there were surgical operations for people suffering from heart conditions. The money made available by the Federal and Provincial Governments have raised the people's standards of living. Instead of clowning about, the Hon. Member for LaSalle should rise in the House to try and defend the interests of both the Government and his constituents.

Mr. Gauthier: So far, not a single Minister has done so.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) who has spoken so eloquently on this issue points out to me that not a single Minister has raised so far to deal with this issue.

Mr. Speaker, they all rise in defence of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens), but none of them are rising to defend the interests of Quebecers. This is absolutely shocking, Mr. Speaker. All the provincial governments expressed their disagreement, and the important thing here is that the credibility of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is at stake, because in Sherbrooke, Quebec, he promised he would not cut back transfer payments for health care and education, Mr. Speaker. And now he has failed to keep the promise he made in Quebec City.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I may remind the Conservative Members from Quebec who are here in the House, and I am not talking about those who are absent . . . I never saw the Hon. Member for Montmorency—Orleans (Mrs. Blouin) rise in the House.

I think it would be interesting to know what she has to say about this question, Mr. Speaker. Not only is the Government preventing its Members from speaking, it has gagged the Opposition.