

Motion Respecting House Vote

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, the solution suggested or submitted by the New Democratic party is not very much different from the one suggested by the Conservatives or the Liberals. Only the solution advocated by the Cr ditistes differs from all others.

Instead of compelling the low wage-earner to dig deeper in his pockets, let the Minister of Finance go to the sources of money; not to circulating money, but to the source itself, namely the Bank of Canada, of which we should make full use in order to develop our natural resources. By so doing, we would respect the corporations and workers. But no, the Conservatives and the New Democratic party will not consider that solution. The Cr ditistes alone advocate it, and yet it is accessible to parliament and to the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, that is the heart of the matter we are now discussing and trying to clarify. Basically, is it not a monetary question? It is not merely a fiscal matter. If we go to the bottom of things, it is a monetary matter, which the fiscal question follows.

Now, that is precisely the question—I must wait for the interpretation, Mr. Speaker, because I am told that I am doing well at this point—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, the fiscal question follows the monetary question and that is the one we should face. I feel that if we faced seriously the real problem that exists in Canada, it would be possible to find a solution instead of fooling around and saying: Is it a vote of confidence or non-confidence, etc, etc.?

At this stage, and because we are now facing a problem that concerns the constitution and our parliamentary traditions, I would suggest that the government should add the words "confidence" or "non-confidence" to the bills introduced in the house. If the government did that, we would not encounter the kind of difficult parliamentary situation we are dealing with now.

Mr. Speaker, I shall close my remarks by repeating the wish of the Ralliement des Cr ditistes. The Canadian people need their government. The Canadian people deserve a more responsible management of their national affairs than they get at the present time. Recently, a federal-provincial conference was

[Mr. Caouette.]

held which dealt with bilingualism, the recognition of the French language in the other provinces, as we recognize the English language in the province of Quebec. All the premiers of the Canadian provinces deserve congratulations and the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada ought to be congratulated for having proposed and suggested that linguistic policy in the other provinces.

I shall point out that during my early visits in western Canada, in 1962, I said in Vancouver, in Victoria, in Alberta, in Saskatchewan: give our French minorities the same treatment that we give the English minorities in the province of Quebec, and then it will be easier to talk about national unity or national understanding.

• (3:10 p.m.)

During the last federal-provincial conference, that progressive idea was supported by all provincial premiers as well as by the Canadian Prime Minister.

Now, ladies and gentlemen—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, everybody will agree with me that there are charming ladies in the galleries.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: We also realized during the federal-provincial conference that the question of prime importance was, all in all, the economic situation. The province of Quebec and all the other provinces are asking for increased powers. Mention has been made of a special status, a special treatment, etc. In that connection, the federal government has a great part to play, because it is also true that financial matters come under federal rather than provincial jurisdiction. On the other hand, the main problem of the provinces concerns precisely financial matters.

The premiers of Quebec and Ontario as well as those of the western and maritime provinces told us: We do not have the capital needed. Only the central government can do it because it is the only one which has the right and the power to legislate in that field. When the provinces secure financial powers, they will be able to administer their own business as they please, according to their aspirations and then all talk of a special status will die down. On the other hand, to reach that stage, we need the authority to administer ourselves.