

*Private Members' Business*

We also know the environment is in serious trouble. We need more education and co-operation in this area as well. We know that when we look at the international scene people are still far too inclined to try and resolve their conflicts. How? By going to war, by using very powerful weapons that could destroy the planet, let alone the countries involved. We really have no choice. We have to decide one way or the other. We can say we do not need our neighbours, but in the end, we realize it is probably easier to co-operate with them. To co-operate does not mean I lose my autonomy, my sovereignty or my independence. In fact respect for autonomy and co-operation go hand in hand.

[English]

The project, as proposed, has raised a number of questions and a number of important questions which I would like to deal with. Before I do that, I want to stress that we often talk about education and economic development. I have no difficulties with that. I think that is very, very important. We talk about it in terms of increased competitiveness and more productivity, and that is important too. I applaud that, but let us also talk about it as the development of the human being, the realization of the potential that each and everyone has within us. It is more than making more for more money, although that is interesting. It is also about trying to develop that human being to his or her fullest potential. That is terribly important because those people who I suspect are the happiest in the world are those who have been fortunate enough to realize a great deal of that potential. They have in fact been able to utilize that to the welfare of their immediate community and sometimes the larger community.

Let us talk competitiveness, globalization, increased competitiveness and all of those other terms, I have no difficulty with that, but let us not forget the human dimension of education which makes me more of what I am as a result of education.

The question that this particular project raises is what is the role of the Canadian Council of Education Ministers. That is not quite the accurate term. I think the term is CMEC. If I were to think just for a few moments I would probably get it correct, but it is really an

organization that permits all of the ministers of education to get together to talk about education and some co-ordination.

What would happen to this particular organization, the Council for the Ministers of Education Canada? What about research. This project has a lot of emphasis on research and I think that is great, but what about the research on education that is already going on in universities? How would that fit in. How would that dovetail with this particular kind of initiative?

When we talk about the private sector I think we have to define it a bit. It is composed of what exactly? Are we talking about the total private sector, larger elements of that private sector or are we talking about small business? We need some definition there.

We need, as well, to recognize that the moment we talk about private sector it gives a dollar connotation. It gives a bottom line message. That may sour it a bit. As I indicated just a few moments ago, it is all very well to talk about more education for more wealth. It is also very important to talk about more education to deal with some of our social problems and *l'épanouissement de la personne*.

If we look at our problems in Canada today, we have serious economic problems. There is no doubt about that. We are talking about large unemployment, social assistance, people who are being fed at food banks. We are talking of 1.5 million to 2 million people, poverty of roughly 5 million people. If we look at it, it is an economic problem but there are also serious social problems. We must never forget that.

[Translation]

When we talk about violence against children, women and the elderly, when we talk about poverty and people who do not have enough to eat or who are homeless, these are economic problems. Yes, they are, but there is a human dimension, a social dimension which is extremely important.

[English]

I would hope that if we were able to go forward with such a project that we would not just have projects that are focused upon the economics but also focused upon the human dimension and the social problems.