

The Address—Mr. Dupuis

speakeeth. Actually, the parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister refers to spewing and the member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm to naughtiness. But I am not calling him a naughty child because I use parliamentary expressions.

Yesterday, he interrupted the member for St. Denis 12 times during his speech. If we count the times he has interrupted me until now, I think he is about to beat the record of interruptions in this house.

Mr. Pigeon: The hon. member for Laurier, 32 times.

Mr. Dupuis: I should like to remind the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm that in 22 years we introduced all the social security legislation, we passed all the legislation concerning the sovereignty of this country, we offered balanced budgets, and those were prosperous years for the people of our country. In the last four years, under a Conservative regime, we have known the greatest deficits and the most serious unemployment situation since confederation. We are now witnessing the most serious confusion since confederation.

When I think of the leaders who have presided over our country's destiny, I like to compare the Lauriers, Kings, St. Laurents, Pearsons and Guthries to the Tuppers, Brackens, Bordens, Bennetts, Manions, Meighens, Hansens, Drews and Diefenbakers.

Mr. Speaker, I am not afraid to tell my friends that when they are prepared to hold an election, we shall be ready to face them. We are ready to face those from the province of Quebec who are here so well represented by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, those who were promising that a Conservative government would give Canada an ambassador to the Vatican. Where is the ambassador to the Vatican?

Mr. Pigeon: Why don't you tell us something about the two flags?

Mr. Dupuis: Those who were promising the abolition of our contribution to the Colombo plan. What have they done about it? They have doubled its amount. Those who had promised to give Canada a distinctive national flag and who, now, are refusing to do so, a matter about which today their leader does not want to commit himself, but about which our own leader has made a formal promise in listing it, in the Liberal party platform.

Where are they today those who in 1958 promised us that "O Canada" would be adopted as our national anthem, that federal

assistance to universities would be abolished, but who, instead, voted to increase such assistance when they had an opportunity to abolish it.

Where are those who promised us the deepening of the Richelieu to promote the economy in that area? During four years, they obstructed that project, while the hon. members for Richelieu-Vercheres (Mr. Cardin), for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) and myself urged that a study of the deepening of the Richelieu be started as soon as possible in order to stimulate the economy of that area.

Mr. Speaker, are you aware that the Prime Minister has failed four times to keep his promise to visit the area? In fact, it is only after he was goaded and criticized, when he realized that his members would be defeated in our district if he did not agree to consider the deepening of the Richelieu river, that he decided to come back at the beginning of winter to stage a public show in the city of St. Jean.

Mr. Speaker, I will take a few seconds to tell you what happened. First of all, you may remember that I stated in the house that on September 21, 1959 the Prime Minister had promised to visit the Richelieu district but that he had just taken a short ferry tour in the vicinity of Sorel, after which he left in a convertible for the Gaspé peninsula.

Since then, he promised on three occasions that he would come to St. Jean. The last time he spoke about it, there was a lot of publicity; pamphlets were distributed from house to house, cars went through the streets with loudspeakers, pamphlets were handed out on the church steps, full pages of advertisement were printed in local newspapers and flash announcements were made on the radio.

The great man was supposed to come to St. Jean on December 12, 1961 to inform the local population of an important, a serious decision taken by his government. Well, believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, we were awaiting for the fourth time that long promised visit by the Prime Minister, but he did not come. Yet, on that day, December 12, 1961, during the evening, some Conservatives had gathered at the Paul Beaulieu school, in St. Jean; it was only a coincidence.

And all that time, those Conservatives gathered together were waiting for that statesman who did not come. But the telephone rang. The one who acted as master of ceremonies, the hon. member for—I forget his name, he so seldom makes any contribution to our debates—oh yes, the hon. member