

*Ways and Means*

Is it not time for the federal Minister of Finance and the provincial revenue ministers to consider and stress the priority needs of the various provinces at the next federal-provincial conference? At that time, the real priorities, if any, will be revealed.

Mr. Chairman, considering that, at this time, the federal government allots almost 27 per cent of the national budget to the Department of National Defence, I wonder whether the educational field, in Quebec as well as in other provinces, does not have the same importance, and should not be further developed, in order to equalize the living standard of all Canadians?

I realize that some provinces must resort to other than the fiscal means now provided by the constitution, but I think that in this case, the federal government should hand over to them the rights and powers to which they are entitled.

Mr. Chairman, there is some talk about a new federalism. According to what I heard, the Prime Minister stated that in no way does he wish to be the one to liquidate confederation. Well, I wonder if those who are in favour of the present system, that is to say the government members and the members of the Conservative party, when they had the same responsibilities, are not actually liquidating confederation?

Mr. Chairman, may I call it five o'clock?

[Text]

Mr. Pickersgill: I understand, sir, that the hon. gentleman is the last speaker. I wonder if he could conclude in a sentence or two and then we could get the bill through.

Mr. Pigeon: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron: Thank you Mr. Chairman, I shall soon finish my remarks.

When reading some comments published in the press, it might be inferred that the province of Quebec has, once again, made unfair claims on Ottawa for sums of money which the province urgently needs.

Now this is not the true position. A few moments ago, I quoted some figures which I want to put on the record. As far as those figures are concerned, we did not get any more than what we were entitled to. On the contrary, our average is lower than the \$10 per head throughout the country.

Our claims are therefore, not unfair. We claim the same rights as the other provinces, where they may sometimes be stressed to a lesser degree than in the province of Quebec which has insisted on those rights for several years.

It was, however, always done in a spirit of thorough understanding with regard to

our fellow citizens of the other provinces. We want a united Canada, yes; a Canada where agreement prevails—yes, of course. But a Canada where there is agreement in the taxation field, and where nothing is wrongly implied or inferred.

Three weeks ago, the premier of one province implied, when assistance to vocational training was being discussed, that the province of Quebec had no reason to recriminate, because it had received its full share. And yet, the official figures were submitted here. It may be noted that in the three years during which the legislation was applied, the province of Quebec received less than the share it was entitled to because, at that time, it was not ready to take advantage of that legislation.

Now, this is also true with regard to the future of this country. We want a united Canada, of course; we want a Canada where mutual understanding will be the order of the day. The best means of reaching that goal, is to look in a more realistic perspective, at all those things which now divide us, and which, perhaps, make us acrimonious, at all those things that, in the opinion of our fellow citizens, make us look like dissatisfied people, or people who are impossible to satisfy.

We do not ask for the moon and stars. We simply want the province of Quebec, like the other provinces of Canada, to benefit fully and completely from the fabulous wealth which the Canadian people as a whole inherited, by making it easier for each of the provinces, within the framework of confederation, to develop soundly the natural resources of this country.

[Text]

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**WAYS AND MEANS**

The house in committee of ways and means, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

**INTERIM SUPPLY**

Mr. Pickersgill (for Mr. Gordon) moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964, the sum of \$377,400,841.02 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, as set forth in the resolution concurred in this day in the committee of supply.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Pickersgill (for Mr. Gordon) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-116,