

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I must bring to the attention of the parliamentary secretary that he is making a very interesting point but he may have the floor after the hon. member for Joliette and bring these points before the House.

Mr. La Salle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Longueuil wants to contribute and it seems that there is enough time for him to do so. It would be very interesting to listen to him and I am ready and indeed I would be very pleased to hear him. Nevertheless my time has not expired yet. As I said, the absence of proper energetic measures in both our textile industry and our industry in general has forced several industries in Canada to close their plants. The absence of research is responsible as well for the research subsidies for industries which had to close. We are told that the government makes incredible efforts and people are highly indignant because one deplores now the lack of courage shown in these past 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I acknowledged the comments of the hon. member for Chambly. All I said is that it is not easy to accept an invitation saying we are going to look at the other side and try to make Canadians believe that we are right to trust the government. Mr. Speaker, I repeat it over and over and I say it everywhere. We have no reason to trust a government which has failed in its responsibilities for too long and which has respectfully lied to us for too long on god knows how many issues and has constantly tried to mislead us. All the projections of the previous Minister of Finance and of the present Minister of Finance were wrong. The hon. member for Longueuil knows that.

Mr. Speaker, there were a series of statements about the economic situation of the province of Quebec which were equally false. Many extremely important recommendations, which I am sure would have curbed the rise of separatism in Quebec, have been rejected. But in Ottawa, nobody cares. And now we are in a difficult situation which is described here tonight but we are told we should not talk about it. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the responsible ministers who try to find new funds so that when one talks about restoring the economic climate in Canada and within my province of Quebec, there is not one single member of the House who is against it. Still I cannot applaud the efforts which have been made these last 12 years. This is wrong. But this is a different situation altogether and it seems that something is going to be done.

● (2217)

As I said earlier, in my constituency people refer to false projections. Must I remind this House that when there was question of the Mirabel project—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council on a point of order.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Would the hon. member allow a question? Would he specify the areas where the government allegedly lied to the opposition, before I rise on a question of privilege?

Income Tax

Mr. La Salle: When I am finished, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wants to rise on a question of privilege, he will be able to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Joliette alone can allow a question. He may conclude. The Parliamentary Secretary on a point of order.

Mr. Pinard: I wish to reserve my right to rise on a question of privilege, because the hon. member just blamed illegal action on the government, by suggesting the government lied to the opposition. I reserve the right to rise on that question tomorrow, if I am so allowed by the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would like to point out to the hon. member that there is nothing in our rules to preclude the hon. member from accusing the government or a political party as a group in this House, or even from suggesting that a party or the government uttered falsehoods. It is in cases where the character of an individual member is involved that his rights may be infringed upon and he may rise on a point of order. Anyway, the hon. member in the opinion of the Chair is simply raising a matter of opinion and I do not feel at this point that he has a proper point of order.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I repeat that this government has been misleading, if the term "lying" is too harsh for the hon. member to hear, this government has been misleading the Canadian people for ten years. In all its projections, as I said, not to mention the 1968 commitment to reduce unemployment, if this be not sufficient proof in the current context, is this not misleading the people?

Mr. Pinard: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I hope the parliamentary secretary is rising again on a question of privilege.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member for Joliette has used another word and that instead of using the word "to lie", he has elected to use the word "to mislead", you will no doubt allow me to rise again on a question of privilege and to call the attention of the Chair on the ruling which was given today by Mr. Speaker around 3 p.m., when he ruled that to accuse a party or a group of an illegal act is deemed at this time to be a breach of privilege and that the hon. member should withdraw his accusation if he is not in a position to substantiate it. In this case, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Joliette does not only make statements without substantiating them, without supporting them with specific facts. He accuses government members of telling lies. He accuses government members of misleading the opposition and, under these circumstances, I ask permission to raise a question of privilege as early as tomorrow, which is an allotted day.

Mr. La Salle: Having heard the remarks of the hon. member, I shall try to provide additional evidence. In 1974, we went to the people on a very clear platform of wage and price controls. The government kept repeating throughout the country that they would never take such an approach. They called