

tion quite properly attacks this point in an attempt to needle Senator Croll and myself when the real fact is that the mess is in the mind of the Leader of the Opposition.

Our young people have been given the opportunity to prove that they can use their own imagination and energy through Opportunities for Youth. Let no one ridicule that program, as several honourable senators last year did. That program is self-propelling and has given a great deal of work to many of our young people at a time when work for them as for other people is so essential.

We now have programs that help give the people of the poor parts of our country the same advantages and opportunities enjoyed by people in the affluent parts. We now have laws that say that people can deal with the government in either French or English, the official languages of this country.

[Translation]

I noted last night what Senator Lapointe said on this subject and I believe the government's bilingualism program represents one of the most important instruments to guarantee the unity of our country.

I believe that when the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate speaks about the Prime Minister, he should be fair and recognize the great contribution he has made in this field.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** I did mention it at the time. It need not be discussed for years.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** I am taking due note of what you said today.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** I did so at the time the legislation was passed. I even recommended it before he came into power.

[English]

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** We now have programs which provide real support and encouragement for all culture groups in our country. We now have laws to ensure that all of us and our children will have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and more of Canada's natural beauty kept safe in national parks for everyone to enjoy. We now have laws that have established Canada's rights in the Arctic and extended Canada's rights, including fishing rights, in the oceans around us.

So, honourable senators, I believe that the government is not deserving of the indictment the Leader of the Opposition made in his speech today, in what he believes to be a pre-election session. By the way, I do not know where he gets his information. He provoked me to give an account of the government's stewardship, which I would have given in any event, in the event that the Leader of the Opposition was a better prophet than I now think he is.

• (1540)

The Leader of the Opposition did not say anything about Canada-United States economic trade relations.

Perhaps he will reserve this for some other occasion. This is an important matter, but as he has not dealt with it I suppose there is no need at this particular moment for me to do so.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** I am just hoping that everything is improving.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** I think the situation is normal. This does not mean to say we do not have problems with the United States. These we have. A country whose people have \$11 billion invested in the United States, as Canada has, in a country whose people in turn have \$35 billion invested in Canada, in itself, particularly a great country like the United States with its large population, does create problems for Canada, just as undoubtedly to a lesser extent some of our policies create situations of concern to the government and people of the United States. But there need not be any doubt about this. Our relations are normal. Our relations are good. They have a very serious international indebtedness problem, which we have recognized and which other countries have recognized.

Our discussions with regard to the production and sale of automobiles is in respect of an agreement the negotiations for which began over a year ago, and are completely unrelated to the events that began with the imposition of the 10 per cent surcharge by President Nixon in the middle of August last. However, there will be an opportunity to say something about that later.

I want to say that, although I was not a member of the delegation, I have heard that the members of the Senate who attended the Canada-United States Inter-parliamentary Group meeting last week did us honour. We will look forward to a report next week from that delegation, to the extent that it can report on the valuable and, I am sure, important discussions which Senator O'Leary, His Honour the Speaker, Senators Connolly, Hayden and Macnaughton—

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** And Senator Beaubien.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:**—and Senator Beaubien took part in. Senator Beaubien is the last man I should forget whenever I come to a group in which he is included, for reasons that are well known to him and that have to do with a date approximate to December 25 last. He will always be almost the first for me to mention.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** What about your black list.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Well, you are on that.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** I know that, but I am speaking of people on your side.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Oh, we have no black list here.

Last night Senator Lapointe spoke of the situation in the Province of Quebec. She spoke of the separatist movement. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that, politics aside,—and I think I am in a position to say this—at the present time in our country no man is better