

Government Organization

(b) the investment during the period of five years from the date upon which this agreement becomes signed by both Canada and the province of not less than \$21,600,000 with respect to schools serving the centres designated under subparagraph (a) hereof, but in any case secondary schools shall have first priority in respect of the said moneys.

An increased teacher training program. Educational development. This is the kind of agreement the Liberal government is signing but which the minister is condemning. I could go on to give other examples but my time is limited.

There is an agreement with the province of Quebec. One can look at it very carefully, one can read it word by word, one can put it under a microscope, without finding in it one word about education. I do not know whether this means that Quebec does not need the amount of money for education that the other three provinces need. Possibly the province of Quebec would not take money for education, believing, as the Prime Minister used to say before he became Prime Minister, that education is the sole responsibility of the provinces and that the federal government should not incur expenditures in this field.

On the other hand, it might be that the federal government is spending money for education in the redevelopment area of eastern Quebec but that for reasons of politics, or so as to avoid wounding anyone's susceptibilities, the funds provided for it are hidden. The point I am making, and which I think I have demonstrated conclusively, is that the government and the minister are doing things which the Prime Minister and the minister said were wrong, things which they said were illegal and which would destroy the very fabric of Canada.

The present Prime Minister might argue that he cannot be held responsible for the agreements with Manitoba, New Brunswick and Quebec because they were signed before he took office. But he is certainly responsible as Prime Minister for the agreement which was signed some ten days ago with the province of Prince Edward Island. It is possible he does not even know of the contents of that agreement, though I find this hard to believe. The minister shakes his head. Then I suggest that in fact the Prime Minister and the government have scrapped the basic principles which they espoused.

There is nothing wrong about that, Mr. Chairman. If, within less than a year of forming a government the Prime Minister has found, as so many of us have tried to point out, that you cannot operate this country on

[Mr. Orlikow.]

the basis of a simple constitutional division of certain responsibilities between the federal government and the provinces, then we are happy. We have to approach matters in a pragmatic manner and solve problems as they arise. If the Prime Minister and the government realize this, then we are happy. But I hope that an obvious consequence of that discovery on the part of the Prime Minister and the government will be that there will be an end to the kind of lecturing that opposition members of parliament have been given by the Prime Minister, both inside and outside the house.

• (5:20 p.m.)

This sort of thing has been done unfairly, I think, but very effectively. During the last election campaign the Prime Minister took the simplistic approach that he and his party stood for one Canada, that the Conservatives stood for something known as "deux nations", whatever that meant, that the New Democratic party stood for special status for Quebec, that the Conservatives and the New Democrats were really out to break up this country, that only the Liberals had a God-given right to power 99 per cent of the time.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): They are not the chosen people, are they?

Mr. Orlikow: No, and I do know who the chosen people are, although the Liberals claim to have all the answers.

The Prime Minister and the government must learn that they do not have all the answers. Perhaps they will learn that from what I suggest is a retreat in less than one year from one of the basic principles enunciated by the Prime Minister for a considerable period of time. The government must stop attacking the opposition parties by unfair and oversimplified means. Like other Canadians these parties have stated that the problems Canada faces in the fields of education, health and welfare, economic development and poverty are not simple but require a variety of techniques to solve, as well as the complete co-operation of all governments, federal, provincial and municipal. If the government has learned this, then perhaps we may begin to deal with some of the basic problems in this country.

[Translation]

Mr. Gendron: Mr. Chairman, we, members from the underprivileged areas, greet enthusiastically the setting up of this new department and we take this opportunity to