

Supply

particularly popular in Quebec. So why didn't this government abolish the Senate if it hates it so much?

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Maheu: I think they should come out and admit, once and for all, that all these government members are trying to do is to distract us from the main issue, which is the GST. The issue is not the Senate. You are just using the Senate to fool the public. They are using the Senate as a crutch, and meanwhile—

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): My father used to say, don't spit in the wind!

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Maheu: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member wishes to raise a point of order?

Mrs. Maheu: Yes, Mr. Speaker. May I ask why I was not allowed to finish?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Several members have asked to speak. However, if you wish, you may finish your comments or question, but please be brief.

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): I should like the hon. member for Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup to tell us—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Maheu: Is that not you on the other side. I am looking for the name of your riding.

Mr. Vincent: Trois-Rivières.

Mrs. Maheu: Trois-Rivières, good.

How many jobs have been lost in the Greater Montreal region in the past year and a half? Nobody talks about that. Now about job creation, can we talk about the quality of job creation and begin telling the truth to the people of Canada?

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I might repeat what I said about spitting in the wind. That is what my father used to tell me.

First, Mr. Speaker, concerning the abolition of the Senate, I will try to give my colleague from Saint-Laurent—Cartierville a two-minute law course.

• (1750)

First of all, to abolish the Senate, Mr. Speaker, Quebec would have to be part of the Canadian Constitution. In 1981, thanks to the Liberal Government, Quebec was excluded. In 1990, thanks to the Liberal Leader who, during the Convention, embraced Clyde Wells, the Liberal Premier of Newfoundland, Quebec was again excluded. Under the circumstances, they should not talk to me about the need to abolish the Senate, for it is because of the Liberals if the Senate has not been abolished, because the Prime Minister of Canada had offered it.

Mr. Speaker, they just cannot accept that. The Prime Minister of Canada offered it, but the Provincial Liberals in Newfoundland, and later the Federal Liberals did everything they could to torpedo the Meech Lake Accord and hurt Quebec. That is my reply to your question about the abolition of the Senate. Carry on this way, you are doing fine, it is a brilliant performance!

To reply to the other question raised by my friend the Hon. Member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville concerning job creation, I will say that between 1981 and 1984, nearly 100 000 jobs were created every year, including 75 per cent which were temporary. And you know what "temporary" really means: you are hired for three months to paint fences. You are hired for six months to cut grass, even in Winter. Such was the type of jobs created between 1980 and 1984.

Between 1984 and 1990, 1.6 million jobs were created, 80 per cent of which were high quality permanent jobs. And I challenge the Hon. Member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville to come and see for herself! First of all, if she did not know that I represent the Trois-Rivières riding, now she does. I challenge her here and now to come and visit Trois-Rivières to see that we have indeed lost jobs, but that we have created a great many new ones, so that the net balance is positive.

An hon. member: Canadair is in her riding.

Mr. Vincent: Such, Mr. Speaker, is the economic reality.