

*The Budget—Mr. Rocheleau*

Canadian population as a whole and mostly for the population living in the National Capital Region.

**Mr. Assad:** Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my colleague the Member for Hull—Aylmer for a very well-thought and accurate statement. During the Hon. Member's speech, I noticed some reaction. When he spoke of Free Trade, the Secretary of State for External Affairs reacted as usual. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I will say it in English.

[English]

Every time we talk about free trade we see a reaction by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark). I will quote from Shakespeare: "Methinks you protest too much".

**An Hon. Member:** That was a lady.

[Translation]

**Mr. Assad:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask you—

[English]

Take it for what it is worth. You know what I mean.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member mentioned the Transport Canada—Hull case and I would ask my colleague if he agrees to say that Conservative Members who represent Québec in this Chamber have not done their job. They had the opportunity to gain recognition for Québec through a process recognized as legitimate everywhere and they have not uttered a single word. Even the Québec Premier spoke of a grave injustice. Do we hear anything from Québec Hon. Members sitting here? Not a word! I ask the Hon. Member for Hull—Aylmer if he agrees to blame the Conservative Hon. Members who represent Québec in this chamber. They are asked to make Québec's voice heard and they do nothing. Here is a golden opportunity for them to show that they represent the whole of the province and look what happened in the Hull region, on the Québec side of the Outaouais: a normal process and not a word from them when everybody agrees it is a shameful thing. And the Conservative Members do not utter a single word! Shame on you! I would like the Hon. Member for Hull—Aylmer to

comment on that and I ask that a charge be made against you all. You are not doing your job! And neither is he!

**Mr. Rocheleau:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Ressources to kindly stop chattering.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Gatineau—La Lièvre (Mr. Assad) is absolutely right. We sat together in the National Assembly for several years as members of the Bourassa government and such a thing would never have been tolerated. I was Minister of Supply and Services and responsible for the *Société immobilière du Québec*, and I would have been hung in Québec City if I have done something like that.

The 63 Conservative Members from Québec did not do their homework. None of the Conservative Members did their homework. All of them learned about the budget at the same time we did on television and they still have not read it. And it shows! Let me put the facts straight. Twenty-one major Canadian promoters presented in good faith submissions to Public Works Canada. It is a fact, Mr. Speaker. Several officers from Public Works Canada repeatedly stated to the media and in public that this contract would be awarded.

Could it be that these civil servants were fooled by their boss, the Minister of Public Works, by the Minister of Finance, by the President of the Treasury Board, by the Prime Minister of Canada?

Mr. Speaker, could we ask ourselves that question? Could we ask that question to the public servants? The agreement between Campeau and the Prime Minister will cost enormous sums of money to the taxpayers for removing the asbestos and improving the heating and ventilation system. These costs will be in the neighbourhood of 25 to 30 million dollars, and the federal government will pay half just to please Campeau!

That reminds me that on June 27 1978, the present Minister of Public Works, who was then the Member for Central-Nova, was wondering for how long they would have to go on wasting taxpayers' money to please Mr. Campeau? I am talking about the present Minister of Public Works and he is the one responsible, Mr. Speaker.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I endorse completely the comments made by my colleague from Gatineau because he is right and he is fighting for a principle, the fundamental