

*The Address—Mr. Thompson*

was going and who, when he got there, did not know where he had arrived; and he did it all on borrowed money.

According to the press of last Friday the leader of the official opposition, when referring to my own remarks in regard to a vote on non-confidence in the government, is reported to have said this, "I find it very hard to keep up with Social Credit". He found it very difficult to keep up in Quebec in the last election; and in another election he is going to find it even harder to keep up with Social Credit not only in Quebec but across the whole of the country.

I am reminded of an incident that happened a number of years ago when I was keeping a speaking engagement down in the southern states. Having flown to one of the larger cities, I was obliged to get a car in order to go on to the smaller town in which I had my speaking engagement. The hour was getting late and as I was driving along the road I was not sure just where I was. I therefore stopped and spoke with a little coloured fellow. Most of the people down in that state are coloured folk. Not thinking too much I said to him, "Sonny, can you tell me where I am?". The little fellow looked at me quizzically and finally he put a little black finger up at me and he said, "There you is, mister". I was chagrined at my display of ignorance in the form of the question. I went on further and this time I met a coloured man. Carefully I asked him how I could get from where I was to where I was going. He said, "That is easy. All you have got to do is go down the road about a mile, then you turn to the right. Oh, that road is closed. You can't go there. Then you got to go back a mile and turn to the left." Then he stopped and said, "You can't go by that road either". Then he looked at me with that same quizzical look the little fellow had a few moments previously and he said, "I don't think you can get to where you is going from where you is".

I think that is exactly the position that faces our dear old political parties. Canada desperately needs leadership and not the kind of cock and bull stuff that we have had in this sacred chamber yesterday and today. Let us get down to facing the facts. Let us remember that democracy means not only representative government but also responsible government. If there was ever a time in the history of our nation when this house needed to show responsibility, it is now. Our party is determined to face up to the needs of Canada and Canadians above political opportunism.

Canada potentially stands in a unique and enviable position. Her material resources are

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vast and diversified, and their development is still in the stages of infancy. Few, if any, other nations have a material development potential equal to ours. If what we have heard today about the wonderful state of our economy is true, then I guess all is well. This is not what the people of Canada understand today. This is what they did not understand when they came to vote on June 18. Otherwise the election results would have been different from what they were. I should like to say that surely there is no question about the quality and character of our human resources. This is true both at home and abroad. Through my many years of experience overseas I have come to see first hand the fact that Canadians have set an example of friendly confidence all over the world. Our Canadian people have established an enviable reputation for their enterprise, integrity and friendliness. With the rich heritage and cultures we have from our two mother nations across the sea, plus the addition of the many other nations and peoples down through the years that we have had in the new Canadians, we have set a record of confident and efficient achievement which speaks for itself. There are few parallels in this turbulent world of ours. This combination of material and human resources can make possible a higher standard of living and a greater degree of economic stability and progress than we have ever had previously.

This is the challenge which we face today. Let us face up to it and come to grips with these things which are important. This is the challenge before our generation, namely to prove that democracy can meet the needs and solve the problems of people collectively and individually. This is important not only at home but as an example abroad. I refer to a way of life which will provide for all the opportunity to meet the challenge and help to build for mankind a peaceful way of life that will give some assurance of its continuation in an age when it is possible to destroy everything, including ourselves.

It is the record of progress and also a fact of history that a majority has not always been right, and that if it had not been for the determination and the conviction of minority groups struggling for the survival of those things they believed were right, we would never have made the progress we have today.

I would also remind you, Mr. Speaker, that all such progress has been made in the face of determined opposition and even bitter prejudice as tradition has tried to hang on to the things of the past. That is not to say that all in the past is wrong, but that too often we support outworn ideas and institutions even when they fail to meet the need which