

the will. They have shown us that ever since the day after the election. They have the will to be the government. They just do not have the means to govern, that is the trouble.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the Opposition calls for leadership, but surely he is not showing leadership. He is just inviting us to drift in a sea of uncertainty. He reminds me of a marooned sailor drifting helplessly in a life-raft in the middle of the ocean. When he sees a great ocean liner go by, he offers to rescue the ocean liner on condition that he be allowed to be captain of the ship. I draw a similar parallel to allude to the goings-on in the New Democratic Party. It has to do with an ocean liner but the parallel is a bit different. It has to do with seagulls. Because they were squawking and making a lot of noise, they thought they were actually running the ship.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: What else do seagulls do?

[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: It is the French equivalent of pulling someone's leg.

[English]

The people of Canada have a right to know where political parties stand on the issues of the day. The Conservative leader stands before the people of Canada and says, "Give me your support. My heart is filled with good intentions." We have told them where the Liberal Party stands.

[Translation]

The people have the right to know the fundamental philosophy and guiding principles upon which our policies are based. These, Mr. Speaker, are the principles of this Liberal government, the principles which are set forth in the Speech from the Throne and which will be reflected in the measures we will introduce before Parliament during this session.

We believe that Canada needs a strong central government to protect the national interest, prepared to stand up to provincial or regional interests with the confidence that it has the backing of the people of Canada.

We believe that the benefits of our wealth and the burden of our national problems should be shared equitably by all the people, wherever they may live.

We believe that Canadians are entitled to a sense of security, confident in the knowledge that they and their government can control the changing circumstances of our collective life, rather than be the victims of change.

We believe that Canadians should control activities within our borders which have a significant impact on our growth as a nation.

We believe that Canada must take full advantage of its potential to be self-reliant in the basic needs of life.

We believe that the government has a right and a duty to intervene whenever it is clear that private enterprise is unlikely or unable to act in the national interest.

The Address—Mr. Lewis

We believe that individual Canadians, especially those least able to protect themselves, have a right to be protected from the consequences of events over which they have no control, and protected as well from intimidation by big business, big labour or big government.

Those are the principles upon which our legislative proposals are based. That is the philosophy of this Liberal government in the important areas I have discussed today.

Mr. Speaker, we have presented to the House a Throne Speech which I believe is a solid working document, worthy of occupying the attention of hon. members throughout this session. It is a document which responds to the need for strong federal leadership in uniting Canadians in an attack upon our common problems.

It is a document which will help millions of our citizens to plan for the future in an atmosphere of security and optimism. It is a worthy agenda for a Parliament which has already done much more than was expected of it by those who predicted its early demise.

It is a document which commends itself to those hon. members who believe, as I do, that our common task is to make this Parliament work—work hard and effectively—for the good of Canada.

● (1650)

[English]

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the supporters of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) applauded him for so long. If you would permit me to say so, he spoke today as though he was not bored with his own words, and that was a very pleasant experience.

Much of what he said will be extremely useful to the New Democratic Party and to me. It was evident he was rehearsing in preparation for his electioneering, when the time comes, during which he will take credit, single-handed, for all that the last session of parliament accomplished. Let me tell him, Mr. Speaker, that even though he said those things with a straight face, I could tell that he did not believe in them. He sounded incredible to me, and I am sure the people of Canada will not believe him either.

If I might be permitted to give him some advice—it has been suggested by many that I have been doing so for more than a year—I would say to him that the less arrogant attitude he has shown during the last session might work better during the next election and that the people of Canada might appreciate more honesty from the Prime Minister in admitting that the accomplishments of the last session—and, I hope, of this session—were those of a minority government in co-operation with New Democrats and others.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: As to the suggestion that some of us might be seagulls, I would say to the Prime Minister that at least a seagull is a beautiful bird, one whose flight is beautiful to watch, whereas there are fish in the ocean that are not worth catching, let alone watching.

I do not think I have ever, either in this chamber or anywhere else in my experience in politics, in the law or