

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

matter that is not a matter of principle, some matter that does not go to the roots of our policy.

I began my speech—

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, would the right hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I have only a few moments before finishing my speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) does not wish to permit a question. The right hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I am sorry the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) will not permit a question on such an important issue as the matter of voting.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am sure on other days the hon. member will have an opportunity to ask questions. I have been speaking for an hour and a half now and I should like an opportunity to conclude my remarks, for the benefit of people in the gallery.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, such is the program we wished to put before parliament and such are the reasons that made us realize it was imperative for us to come before the House with a plan for action. Such is also the spirit in which we shall try to interpret the lesson the Canadian parliament learned from the electorate through the latter's vote on October 30. What remains now, Mr. Speaker, is in the hands of the men and women who are gathered here.

[*English*]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I did not wish to interrupt the previous speech, but at five o'clock it was my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom)—Consumer Affairs—Food prices—Scope of terms of reference of joint committee; the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Sports—Montreal Olympic Games, 1976—Circumstances of sale of television rights to American Broadcasting Company; the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez)—Housing—Whitson Gardens subdivision, Chelmsford, Ont.—Action to maintain value of houses not subject to foreclosure.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. J. J. Blais for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Stanfield.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I do not have unlimited time; in fact, the rules give me only 30 minutes. I hope I can confine myself within that time, but I am sure the House will grant me additional minutes if I require them.

May I first join others in expressing our party's pleasure that both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker occupy the positions they now have. I also join in congratulating the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, both of whom presented to this House addresses that won for them and their constituents a great deal of respect.

I want to start with something the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said in his final words. If I understood them, he said that the government would decide whether or not defeat on a certain piece of legislation was a matter of no confidence. I want to tell him that as far as we are concerned, it will be parliament that will make that decision. If in our view defeat of a piece of legislation is important to parliament and to this country, but the government does not consider this a motion of no confidence, then we will make certain that this House votes no confidence in the government on a special motion.

Secondly, I want to say to the Prime Minister that I agree with him—

[*Translation*]

—that the Official Languages Act is important for Canada's unity, but I wish to tell him that to speak about it the way he did this afternoon cannot help Canada's unity.

[*English*]

He does not serve the unity of Canada by permitting in Quebec a film boasting of a certain power in parliament and in the government. He does not promote the unity of Canada by saying the kind of thing he said this afternoon.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: Above all, I say to him that although the question of bilingualism in the federal civil service is a crucial matter for the unity of Canada, it has always been his mistake to consider it as the only thing that mattered in Canada. There are economic and social questions in this country of equal importance to the maintenance of unity in Canada.

Before passing to my main speech I want to say a few words to my new suitor this afternoon, the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). I read somewhere the other day that the Leader of the Opposition had said that his tongue was not hanging out for office. From the speech that he made this afternoon I suggest to him that his tongue is not only hanging out, it is tearing at the