

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, any time anybody wants to ask a question, I will be only too happy.

**Mr. Paproski:** Get up, Joe, go ahead.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am talking about responsible members. Mr. Speaker, this great transition reminds me of a quadruplet which goes:

The Devil ill  
The Devil a Saint would be;  
The Devil well  
The Devil a Saint was he.

What has happened? While all this has been going on the Queen has been invited to go here, there and everywhere. She was not referred to in speeches from the throne on one or two occasions and while this new approval of the monarchy takes place various departments of government, including the Department of National Defence, have abolished the heading "On Her Majesty's Service" or "O.H.M.S." from their letters. No longer does that appear, but at the same time there is this pretended devotion to the monarchy. I am going to come back to that in the days ahead, Mr. Speaker.

What of the Speech from the Throne? Well, Sir, it was a remarkable speech, different from the grandiloquent parade of platitudes that characterized some of these speeches in the past. It must have been written by someone other than "I am ahead" or Ivan Head. You recall that he published the Prime Minister's speeches or at least wrote the foreword. He said, with approval, "He speaks like poetry". There is nobody more objective than the man who wrote the speeches.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What was the Speech from the Throne? Mind you, when you take it in the composite it is attractive. I have had something to do with writing the Speech from the Throne on occasion and I admire a piece of work like that. What does it provide? A rehash of the things of the past, an assorted mixture of a survival kit and soothing syrup, but it does not deal with the problems facing Canadians today.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (1520)

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It promises to do so in the future. Mr. Speaker, you judge a Speech from the Throne on the basis of past experience. Without reading at length, may I be permitted to read part of the Speech from the Throne of September 12, 1968. In the speech we are presently considering there is not a word about the just society. In the speech of 1968 we read this:

My Government is deeply and irrevocably committed to the objectives of a just society . . .

On the next page of *Hansard* I find words to the effect that a just society is vital to the future of our country. Then, the following again mentions the just society. Where has it gone now? What happened? There is now the highest taxation in Canada's history, the highest cost of living, and the highest level of salaries ever paid to senior civil servants.

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

**Mr. Hees:** And the highest unemployment.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Where has the just society gone? The Prime Minister was asked in Regina on an open line show, "What happened to the just society?" I think it is only proper that the answer should go in *Hansard*. The answer was:

The next time you see Jesus Christ, ask Him what happened to the just society He promised 2,000 years ago.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The listener could not understand that. I thought it might be one of those loose statements you hear about. A few days later the Prime Minister was asked in Wingham, Ontario, what he meant. He was asked if what he said was intellectual and Christian. He said that as far as its being intellectual was concerned, he thought it was, and as to its being Christian he said, "I can talk to Him in a familiar way and He hasn't objected so far." Where is this nation going? I will not deal in particular with the Speech from the Throne except, as I conclude, to refer to some things that must be established and for which there can be no excuse for not establishing. Of course, that remark has to do with western Canada. I am coming to that matter now.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** You took a long time.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The response from the NDP indicates that the party realizes that sooner or later truth must come out. I am not here to criticize them in any way.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I think they are a very fine group. I congratulate them on the numbers they elected this time. In 1945 they elected 28, and 27 years later they have increased that number by three. Mr. Speaker, I am not a mathematician, but at that rate of growth they should be able to form a minority government by 2048. Even I do not expect to be around then.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am always greatly impressed by the eloquence of the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis). He came to my constituency and spoke. I heard him and admired greatly his speech. I have so told him. I have been greatly interested in following the peregrinations that the NDP has followed since the election. I am thinking of that meeting that took place between the last of the Mohicans from the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains to the city of Winnipeg and the leader of the NDP. These two Oxonians got together and discussed things in general. According to news reports the hon. member for York South said he was telephoned by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) and invited to the minister's office. There, he said, the minister in effect proposed some kind of alliance or coalition between the Liberals and the NDP. Then the Minister of Justice was asked whether he had made a proposal for an "organic understanding"—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!