

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

Mr. Diefenbaker:—"punished", period.

Again I refer to Profumo. He was not driven out of public life because of his extra-curricular activities. Parliament in the last session was not given the truth.

Mr. Mandziuk: From the Prime Minister, up and down.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It may be said that I have overstated the position, Mr. Speaker, but I have extracts from the press of Canada which are particularly appropriate at this time of the year, spring cleaning. The *Winnipeg Tribune* says this:

Mr. Pearson is fortunate that for some mysterious reason he has managed to appear personally aloof from the bumbblings, mishaps and even wrong-headed decisions of his government. In his case the traditional principles of cabinet and ministerial responsibility do not seem to apply automatically. His ministers, executive assistants and parliamentary assistants may become involved in almost incredible situations but comparatively few seem ready to blame him personally.

Then it says:

Time will tell whether this attitude is soft-headed as well as soft-hearted.

Then there is the *Winnipeg Free Press*, certainly not an enemy of this government. The *Winnipeg Tribune* from which I quoted was dated March 30. The *Winnipeg Free Press* says:

Cabinet changes needed.

One of the tragedies of the situation is that most of Mr. Pearson's ministers are honest, conscientious, dedicated men.

Then it says this:

As a result of these shortcomings in the higher echelons the whole government has given the impression of being accident-prone, of being unable to see ahead or to circumvent the pitfalls that strew the way of any administration. And as if this were not enough, there have been instances of a much more serious lack in higher government circles—a lack of honesty and integrity.

Then it says this:

But until, by one means or another, there is a stronger ministry at the head of the country, a ministry capable of giving firm and vigorous leadership and of commanding the confidence of the nation as a whole, the prospects for an improved parliament and for an effective handling of the nation's affairs seem bleak indeed.

Those are the words of the *Winnipeg Free Press*. If you disagree with them, as I so often do, at least they follow the course that throughout the years has earned for them the thanks of this nation. Then Charles Lynch of the Southam News Services wrote an article headed:

An ugly state of affairs.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

He is not talking about China. He said:

After Thursday's events in the House of Commons, it seems clear that a showdown on the question of morality in government must come quickly and that it cannot await the completion of the Dorion inquiry.

Then the *Victoria Daily Colonist*, to the same effect. The *Winnipeg Tribune* deals with the explanations given on this matter regarding the information as to whether or not an alleged bribe had been offered which the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) advised the Prime Minister of in September and which the Prime Minister forgot until the middle of November and says:

Mr. Pearson's statement of explanation to the Commons after the memo had been read into the record of the inquiry was quite inadequate.

Then the *Peterborough Examiner*:

Thus, like Mr. Favreau before him, Mr. Pearson has been less than frank. Again, there is no suggestion that a man of Mr. Pearson's stature was a party to the bribery attempt. But once more the Liberal government has been guilty of a lack of candour that will be most distressing to the Canadian people.

These are not Conservative papers. Then in the *Montreal Star* there is an article headed, "What A Muddle." and it says:

Prime Minister Pearson's humiliating loss of memory, for which he apologized to the House of Commons last Thursday will have more than one consequence. It will reinforce the already widely held conclusion that his administration is one of the most politically inept in the history of Canada. Immediately it will have the effect of going some way to restore the reputation of Justice Minister Favreau.

Then it says:

It must be left to others to explain why, when this crisis burst upon parliament, Mr. Pearson pursued his plan to do some prairie politicking.

These are not Conservative papers that I am quoting from. The *Ottawa Journal* said this on December 18:

His government drags its feet about allowing a judge to inquire freely into the Rivard case.

Then it says:

These dark evasions may not be dark but they seem dark; they invite the ordinary man to wonder what he is trying to hide.

● (4:40 p.m.)

Then the *Toronto Daily Star* of December 18 was to the same effect:

There is no doubt that this business coming on top of the earlier revelations has damaged the government heavily.

Even so, Mr. Speaker, it has been omitted from the speech from the throne, where it should have been underlined. No matter what one's political views may be, this house, this