

The Address—Mr. Osler

is now, will be strangled by inconsistent policies, restricted by adverse parliamentary votes, and deserted from lack of funds. He can look to this side of the House, as in the past, for support of good efforts toward pollution control. I hope his colleagues will at least do the same in a meaningful way.

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say how very fitting it was that the member representing Bourassa (Mr. Trudel) and the member representing Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) were asked to move and second the Speech from the Throne that started this debate. I cannot think of anything more fitting, both from the point of view of the character and abilities of the men involved and from the historical note that one senses when one says "Bourassa" and "Assiniboia".

These two names cannot help but make every member conscious of the great heritage that has come from French Canada and spread across the rest of Canada. The area of Assiniboia, the country of the Assinibioian, was opened up by people who could not have been born very far from the constituency of Bourassa. Assiniboia is the name that commemorates that country of the Assinibioian which was opened up by these men. I just wanted to remind hon. members of the very fitting nature of the selection that was made.

In these days of crises that we seem to be going through, that may or may not be very serious and which may last for a long time or a short time, it is fitting to remind hon. members that we in Canada are very lucky. We have every reason to be proud. Regardless of the ups and downs of the financial situation and the ups and downs of the popularity of the people involved, our Canadian armed forces can be relied upon always to do their job at a moment's notice. We have seen that just this week. There is not the slightest doubt in anyone's mind that they are capable of carrying out the rather touchy assignment that requires cool heads and tough minds.

The hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken) spoke very well and contributed greatly to the debate. However, the underlying thrust of his thought seemed to be the allegation that changes had taken place, but the taking place of change and the ability to change policy in itself seemed to be bad. I am not debating whether these changes have taken place or whether there has been a change in policy. I certainly do not think that if policies are changed they should be labelled as expedencies because, thank God, policies have changed ever since the first man developed the first policy.

There have even been changes in the Conservative party. One hundred years ago they had giants like Macdonald, Cartier, Galt and McGee.

Mr. Whelan: Now they have midgets.

Mr. Osler: Changes do take place, Mr. Speaker. They take place all over Canada. Canada is a federal state, as we all know, with ten provinces. It is a state with six regions, a fact we sometimes forget. We seem to be getting mesmerized by this federal-provincial business that seems to go on all the time. I do not want to decry

[Mr. Aiken.]

the provinces in any way, but I do not think they are pre-ordained instruments for representing a particular region's point of view. Indeed, in some cases they have been, up to now, often negative toward Canada as a whole to such a degree that they could be labelled by a disinterested observer as parochial.

The people of a large metropolitan area, burdened down by very heavy property taxes, yet unable to find adequate financing for the urban improvements that must be made, derive little comfort from watching men on television advancing esoteric arguments as to whether the federal or provincial authorities are responsible for their problems. A Maritimer, bogged down by an unacceptably low level of employment opportunity, fails to see the merit of a tight money policy designed to cure inflation in Toronto or Vancouver.

In my own Prairie region we have many problems that I would like to speak about, but I will confine myself to one example. It is not particularly inspiring for us to know that according to DBS figures the city of Toronto alone can offer job opportunities in the civil service equal to 85 per cent of the opportunities available for the entire Prairie region. Our population in the three Prairie provinces is approximately 18 per cent of the total population of Canada, yet we have about 12 per cent of the civil service jobs. Without descending to the level of parochialism, I suggest we would not be realistic if we were to suggest that those on the Prairies who wish to serve in the civil service have equality of opportunity with those in some other parts of the country who wish to do the same.

Another situation I want to decry, and this cannot be laid directly at the feet of provincial governments, is the phenomenon called economic separatism. It is practiced by various provinces which allow between 5 per cent and 10 per cent "protection" to local industries in connection with tenders over which they have control. This practice could almost be said to constitute economic suicide on a national scale for it encourages artificially the spread of a product's production geographically regardless of efficiency. This, in turn, means that production as a whole, especially in similar units of secondary industry tends to be uneconomic, that prices tend to be unnecessarily high. This, again, penalizes both the consumer at home and the manufacturer who is trying to compete on the export markets of the world.

● (4:00 p.m.)

In addition, it militates against the less populated provinces because it becomes almost mandatory for a small, expanding company to locate in a rich, highly populated provinces so that it may get a chance to bid on that province's "controlled" business. Thus, the central provinces, and possibly British Columbia in some cases, get new secondary industries which should perhaps, from a national point of view, be established elsewhere. Moreover, a great deal of the good which the federal government is seeking to do through its Department of Regional Economic Expansion is negated.

Economic separatism is parochialism of the worst sort. Some way must be found to stamp it out. I bring forward