

*The Address—Mr. Bigg*

**An hon. Member:** You are not the only one.

**Mr. Bigg:** I know I am not the only one. I ask those who served to remember those days and to call for something better than the raise in pay of \$4 per month recently granted the men of the services. I assume these young men are going to follow in the steps of their forefathers and brothers in arms. This magnificent contribution is like the \$6 increase in old age pensions offered by the Liberals, these friends of the little people. I challenged you then and I challenge you now—

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

**Mr. Bigg:** Save your applause; you might not want to give it later. I challenged you then and I challenge you now to be the party of the little people of the country. If you are, your ranks may well be swelled. The only man to lead an administration in this country in the last quarter of a century that was worthy of the little people is the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker). He championed the little people to the point where the big money, the big press and the big mouths of Canada deserted him, and some members of his own party failed in the vision and wisdom required of a good John Diefenbaker Conservative.

I throw out that challenge now. I am not one who is inconsistent. I am consistent, because 18 months ago I nailed my colours to the mast and put out 22,000 copies of this pamphlet I hold in my hand. I will be pleased to give a copy to every member of the opposition, so they can find out where I stand and have always stood.

**An hon. Member:** You are the opposition.

**Mr. Bigg:** If you want decision, read my pamphlet. Yes, at times I have been opposed to some of the policies of my own party, and I have stood up bravely and said so. I asked for acreage payments when many people were asking for deficiency payments, and we got acreage payments. I said the price of hogs was desperately low and that if something was not done about the situation the small family farmer would be destroyed. I stood up in caucus and in the house and advocated these things, but I did not get into the press and I do not expect to get into it today, either. I am not accusing the press of being bought, but I am accusing them of only printing the amount of truth they want to print.

If you want a clear picture of my position on the question of nuclear weapons, this is my point of view and it is personal. I think we should stand shoulder to shoulder with our American allies right down the line. I

took this stand 18 months ago when the present Minister of National Defence said no, it would be treason to have atomic weapons on our soil. That was the consensus of the Liberal party until January, 1963. I can now stand conscientiously on the question of joint—I repeat the word “joint”—control of the atomic defences of North America. I would go as far as to join the United States army as a private soldier and give up my sovereignty and possibly my life to defend western democracy against any aggressor.

How many of you are willing to stand on this ground, and how long have you been willing to stand there? Not 18 months ago, because the foremost defence spokesman of your party said flatly—read *Hansard* if you have the time; do your homework before you come into the house—as found at page 8231 of *Hansard* that it would be tantamount to giving up our sovereignty as a nation if we allowed American generals to come and brainwash us into this foolish move. If you do not know that you do not do your homework in your own party. I know where I stand. Where do you stand? I will never vote for unilateral control of atomic weapons on Canadian soil. I will demand Canadian sovereignty in every phase of our national and political life. Do you dare to stand with me on that? Do we have to create a new party? This is where we stand. There is a word for any other stand, and you know it as well as I do.

You promised us a national flag, and thank goodness for that. If you ratify the one we have that will suit me fine. I said that in 1961. How many have the courage to stand alongside me on this issue? I feel that the flag under which our fathers died and under which we were willing to die is good enough for Canada. All across the hustings of this country during the last few months I have heard such disgraceful statements as these, that this flag does not give representation to all our people. What is this flag we are going to ratify? You promised it; have you the courage to carry out that promise? I am not afraid to take my stand, but I think many of you are.

I feel that we should not only stand beside our United States allies in the atomic defence of the western world, but I think we should also contribute money and manpower. I believe it is time we had a system of national service in this country. This would provide every young man with a chance to square his shoulders and learn a little discipline. How many of you would support me on that? I will risk my political reputation on that stand. I would not interfere with a young man's education, but this would make his education realistic in the twentieth century.