

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

not mind the criticism of the hon. gentleman because he can be extremely helpful when his criticism is offered in a constructive way. But I must point out that the speech he delivered today is not in keeping with his responsibilities as Leader of the Opposition at a time when world conditions are difficult and trying, when the communistic world attacks the free world economically as never before and at a time when one hears remarks such as those made by Mr. Mikoyan last evening when answering questions on "Press Conference". When one considers the difficulties confronting the free world in terms of an economic attack one must conclude this is not the time for the kind of speech that was delivered here this afternoon with such relish.

But now I wish to draw attention to the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition as reported in the *Times* of London supplement of November 24. The article opens with the following words:

As 1958 draws to a close, Canadians can look at themselves and at their world with both confidence and concern; confidence in themselves, concern not so much with matters strictly domestic as with what is happening in the world about them, the consequences of which—political, social and economic—they cannot hope to escape.

The hon. gentleman then proceeds in this article to set out the dangers because, after all, he is exporting the truth. He pinpoints the dangers of the situation and then continues with a most interesting statement. I will ask him when he has an opportunity to reply how he can possibly reconcile the statements he made today with those in the article I have before me. The article states:

Many of Canada's current problems are similar to those that are troubling other free democracies:

Some hon. Members: That is true.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman can endeavour to smile it off but in this article he was telling the truth.

Mr. Pickersgill: It was equally true in 1956.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Today, however, the hon. gentleman endeavoured to paint a somewhat different picture. I wish to repeat the words he used in the article to which I have referred:

Many of Canada's current problems are similar to those that are troubling other free democracies:

Mr. McIlraith: But they have governments that are trying to meet them.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, interruptions such as that are not helpful. We on this side sat and listened without interruption.

Mr. Pickersgill: What about the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming)?

Mr. Diefenbaker: He asked a question.

Mr. Pickersgill: He made a speech.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The article continues with these words:

Many of Canada's current problems are similar to those that are troubling other free democracies: dealing with inflationary pressures and recessionary trends at the same time; reconciling the demands for more governmental intervention to advance social welfare with the preservation of individual rights and the encouragement of initiative.

Today the hon. gentleman tried to leave the impression that we in Canada were in a different position. When he wrote this article he realized the situation in other democratic countries of the world. He realized, for instance, the fact that the United States finds itself in a similar position to that which we are in, with some 4 million unemployed and with trade difficulties. But nowhere in the United States does one find an attitude such as was revealed here today with such apparent relish, as the hon. member referred to circumstances to which I shall also shortly refer as being in large part the inheritance of this government.

Mr. Pickersgill: I thought it was "world conditions".

Mr. Diefenbaker: The article goes on to state:

Canadians do not underestimate the difficulties ahead especially for a country that has given a formidable hostage to fortune in the form of such a heavy dependence on foreign trade for her prosperity. There is, however, a strong spirit of optimism among the people, and a feeling that Canada's destiny is as bright as that of any country in the world.

Between November 24, 1958 and January 19, 1959, what a change of viewpoint has occurred on the part of the hon. gentleman. Not satisfied with having said that he continues in the article to depict Canada's national pride and concludes by saying:

Canada is growing up in troubled and dangerous times, amid persistent and complicated problems, domestic and international. But what is important is that she is growing up—

Oh, Mr. Speaker, that is true. The article continues:

—she is becoming stronger and more mature as a nation. It is the desire of Canadians to use this strength and maturity not merely to build a sturdy nation as the northern half of the American continent, but also to play a worthy and useful part in the achievement of the goal on which all humanity's hopes now rest in this nuclear age—international peace and security.

Mr. Speaker, those were not pious words; they were facts. They were not debating points; they were the truth. In so far as the major portion of his remarks is concerned in connection with the economic situation in Canada, I give, to begin with, the *Times* of