

The Address—Mr. Mandziuk

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Habel) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Habel: I think the hon. member is absolutely out of order in saying that they have been treated to insults, because we know that you, Mr. Speaker, with your great impartiality would not tolerate such a thing.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member—

Mr. Mandziuk: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not necessary to speak to the point of order. The hon. member apparently wishes to deny that there have been any insults, but that really does not raise a point of order.

An hon. Member: Back to your crossword puzzle.

Mr. Mandziuk: We have been treated to various accusations, that we are ignorant, that we have fooled the Canadian people, that we have misled them, and this has occurred not only in this chamber but throughout the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mandziuk: I am glad hon. gentlemen say, "Hear, hear" because I know the Canadian people will put the proper interpretation on some of these slanderous remarks hon. gentlemen opposite are passing about the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), the cabinet and my colleagues who sit on the government side of this house. I am fully aware of that.

Mr. Speaker, apart from that we have heard nothing but boasts. We have heard boasts of superior knowledge—everything is in the superlative—and the superior experience of people they think are experienced. They speak about their infallibility; they never make mistakes. They try to build up their party and their frontbenchers if not their backbenchers, as some type of super men who by divine right are destined to rule this country, and by a certain misfortune in 1957 and 1958 they were dislodged and put into the opposition benches.

They want to convince the Canadian people that conditions will never be the same until they get back to the front benches and are the ruling party. Hearing all this, we know what to expect on the hustings during the forthcoming election campaign. It appears to me, as I think it appears to every average Canadian, that all they seek is to get their jobs back. Getting their jobs back seems to be more important than trying to find a solution for the problems which face this country.

They are indeed anxious to have an election. I might say, Mr. Speaker, to these hon. gentlemen that they will have to face an election and they had better start worrying about the results from today, in spite of the fact that the premier of New Brunswick said in his address to the Liberal rally on January 29 that:

Well, the first step is to elect a new Liberal government here at Ottawa. He also said, and we are going to win, there is no question about it. The smell of victory is in the air... and it smells good.

Perhaps the absence of so many hon. members of the opposition today is accounted for by the fact that they are out in the country taking a whiff of the victory they expect.

I wish to refer to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) during this debate. That was a keynote speech. Several challenges were thrown at the government. These challenges have often been repeated, and the chorus followed suit, "Bring on an election". Well, we heard that in 1957.

Then they say the government must fight the election on its record. We are ready to fight the election on our record. We are not ashamed of our record. We are going to fight on a record of having carried out our election promises to the best of our ability. We are going to let the Canadian people be the judge and jury, and they shall decide. We are accused in this house and on the hustings of going back, and it is said that we should look to the future. The Leader of the Opposition spoke to his cohorts in the Chateau Laurier on January 3 this year and accused us of bringing out some old shopworn issues. We are going as far back as 1957. How far back would hon. gentlemen go? They go back to the beginning of history. Oh yes, they are allowed to do that. I can quote, at this point, remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) himself.

"But while we look ahead, we also have the right and the duty to point out the fumbling and the follies of this government."

The Canadian people will judge on the basis of the Conservative record. The Canadian people will know where we stand.

But where does the Liberal party stand? What do they stand for? Nobody knows. The country does not know where the Liberal party stands. When I hear some of their frontbenchers—

An hon. Member: Where are they?

Mr. Mandziuk: If anyone had simply listened to an address given the other day given by the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) without knowing anything more about what has gone on in Canada he