

The Address—Mr. Mutch

Let us know the facts; let us have an end to the Janus-faced trade policy of the government.

Mr. L. A. Mutch (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, like other hon. members I desire to open my remarks this afternoon by expressing my appreciation of the efforts of the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, on the workmanlike way in which they carried out that duty and brought credit both to themselves and to the constituencies which sent them to this house.

I have been here a long time, and I think I am as free from political malice as some of the arguments I have had to listen to during my seventeen sessions here have been free from logic; but I think perhaps I would be expected, and certainly it will be my pleasure, to address myself this afternoon to some remarks made in the house the other evening. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) paid me the honour of referring at some length to newspaper reports of an address I made in Toronto. I know he did not hear the speech; it was quite obvious he had not read it, so he must have had only the information contained in the newspaper dispatches. I regret that I was not in the chamber to hear him, because while the hon. member is very often wide of the mark in what he says he is seldom dull, and he keeps on shooting no matter how often he misses. I think perhaps it could be said of him, as it was said of another student many years ago, that he has dipped into many pools of knowledge and bottomed none of them. Certainly when he dipped into the factual matter with respect to what was said during the course of that speech which he essayed to criticize in this house the other evening, he did not quite bottom it.

The quotations the hon. gentleman read from the Liberal campaign literature used so successfully in Manitoba were perfectly correct, I am quite sure, since I have no reason to doubt that he procured copies of that literature. If he had heard or read the speech he was undertaking to criticize, however, he would have appreciated that I stated that in some of the views expressed at that time I might be at variance with some of those with whom I am associated in this party.

Mr. Knowles: I said that.

Mr. Mutch: That is quite true; but in his desire to make me appear to speak with two tongues I am afraid the hon. gentleman has tried to make me say what he would like to believe I said, without troubling to find out what I did say. The hon. gentleman has had a long interest, and I think a sincere interest,

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

in social security. When I knew him first, his interest in security was largely concerned with that security which comes in the next world. His personal interest in it was probably in collecting his fair share of the manna which falls from heaven on a tin plate. At some stage, he did enter public life in Canada, and he realized that there was a form of temporary security in public life. I do not think the hon. gentleman will take exception if I say that his reaction, when he first came here, was a little like that of the Scotchman who bet two shillings on a horse race and won 30 shillings, and then asked the Englishman how long this sort of thing had been going on. These people seem to believe that a little social security is such a good thing that a great deal would be better.

At no time, either in the speech in Toronto on the 14th of February or at any other time, have I attacked the normal and healthy desire of all self-respecting people to achieve social security. I believe it is one of the strongest motivating forces in civilized people. I do, and I did, contend that by providing social justice this government has made it possible for more Canadians to achieve social security. I said on that occasion, and I repeat, that fear has led people in all walks of life to put too much faith and too much confidence in legislated social security. I said then that this cult of social security had undermined confidence in ourselves, and in society as it is organized. I did deplore, Mr. Speaker, and I repeat, that state assistance is a snare and a delusion. I now add that it is a fraud. It presupposes that we can continue to get something for nothing. In spite of my hon. friend's eloquence on this subject the other night, it is still a basic and elementary fact that you cannot get something for nothing.

Mr. Knowles: But a lot of people are now getting it.

Mr. Mutch: I believe that modesty should restrain my hon. friend from making a remark like that. I should think that the most realistic comment my hon. friend made in his discourse on my speech was when he said, "I do not know exactly what he meant."

The hon. member continued by saying that many are taking my name in vain, because of the views expressed in the speech delivered at Toronto. I am not unduly concerned if that is the case, but I cannot help wondering if the source of his information about that is any more accurate than the source of his information with respect to what I said. He then sneered at me because the Canadian chamber of commerce, in a publication the name of which I have forgotten, quoted something from that speech with apparent approval. I have never been too much