

The Address—Mr. Dupuis

In order to lend glamour to the last seats parade, the Prime Minister of this country thought it advisable to present a public show in the city of Quebec. There, with drums and trumpets, a lot of hullabaloo and a carefully planned publicity flavoured with all sorts of conjectures, we were told that this great statesman would be accompanied by his ministers who were coming to Quebec by plane, by jet, by sea and other means of transportation, as the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Rouleau) so aptly put it yesterday. Once there, the most sensational announcement which the Prime Minister could make did not concern a shuffling of cabinet seats, because there had been so many changes before, but he said that the Secretary of State had been appointed president of the privy council and that all our people, and more particularly the people of Quebec, should rejoice. Everybody therefore looked eagerly forward to see what new importance the Secretary of State would have in the house.

Well, since his appointment as president of the privy council, we find that the Secretary of State is still as usual in his back seat, in the second row.

Mr. Speaker, the show the Prime Minister presented to our people and the world just proves that the utmost confusion prevails in the ranks of our opponents.

Did we not see the post of deputy speaker of the house become, somehow, a spring-board to a cabinet post. Three deputy speakers have used this spring-board to become ministers. Obviously, hon. members on the treasury benches are not exactly lacking in the ability to turn foolish somersaults.

Mr. Speaker, when opposition members state that there is confusion, uncertainty and depression, those on government benches tell us that we exaggerate and jeopardize this country's prestige.

Do you wish to have concrete proof that our hon. friends opposite are nervous and embarrassed?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Dupuis: I can hear the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm laugh. I was waiting for his first guffaw to tell him something.

Mr. Speaker, if you look up yesterday's *Hansard*, you will see that speeches in this house were made by members from the province of Quebec, among others, the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet (Mr. Fortin) spoke for all the time allotted to him, without being interrupted even once by the opposition, but things were different when opposition members rose to speak.

In fact, during the speech of the hon. member for Dollard, there were seven interruptions, including five on the part of the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm who apparently does not know how to behave in this house.

The hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Denis) took the floor a little later and was interrupted 36 times during his speech, including 12 times by the ever-present member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, eight times by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Tremblay) and seven times by the hon. member who, in a chance move, was appointed parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Ricard).

Mr. Pigeon: You set the example for us, what else can you expect?

Mr. Dupuis: Well, Mr. Speaker, here is another intervention by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm. He does not like to be taught a lesson. When we talk about the last four years, he always shouts: "Tell us about the two flags. Tell us about the 22 years of Liberal administration."

Well, Mr. Speaker, once and for all, I shall tell him about the two flags and the 22 years of Liberal administration, and I hope he will understand.

An hon. Member: He cannot understand anything.

Mr. Dupuis: The Liberal party has in its ranks people who have the strength of their convictions and the courage of their ideas. There are people in the Liberal party who, when they speak of a flag, state exactly what stand they will take concerning a flag after they take over, soon.

Since the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm wishes to speak about the flag, I shall tell him that the Leader of the Opposition has the courage to say that he will suggest for Canada an absolutely distinctive flag, but that we shall be able to use the other one as a symbol of our membership in the commonwealth, and I must draw also to the attention of the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm that our leader and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) have the courage to express their views, but the Prime Minister, the leader of the hon. member who repeatedly interrupted me, did not utter a single word during the discussion on a bill concerning the adoption of a flag to indicate what stand he would take concerning a distinctive flag. Or I should rather say, Mr. Speaker, that he once had the courage to do so—

Mr. Pigeon: Things have changed—