

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

ever, when moral principles are undermined, when moral principles are disobeyed, a nation undermines its greatness. I do not say that wrongdoing is confined to any one individual or one party. But I do say that where there have been the revelations which have taken place in this nation it is not in keeping with the greatness of our country to give no attention to a war on wrongdoing with all the strength of parliament behind such a course. I do not want to see Rivard become the new folk hero of the young men and women of this nation. I think it is a wonderful thing to set up this corps of Canadians, this youth corps. But who is going to lead them? Are you sure they will not be led by such as those with respect to whom evidence has been given during the last few weeks? The Prime Minister cannot say to me that I am dealing with something which is before a commission, because he dealt with the same question in the course of an interview.

This is not an academic question. Where is this declaration in the speech from the throne that the administration of justice in Canada within the federal jurisdiction shall be beyond reproach?

An hon. Member: Better get a justice minister, first.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Where is the declaration in this regard? I do not intend to go into the record but I will point out those facts—that one former Liberal member who became a judge is now awaiting an appeal after conviction; that a cabinet minister is before the court; that two cabinet ministers bought furniture in circumstances which demand that this House of Commons find out what is in the record of the Sefkind bankruptcy. We have a right to know. We asked the other day but we were told we could not have this information. Why should it be denied us? I know the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) did not tell the Prime Minister that his own parliamentary secretary was allegedly involved. Why? The other day when we asked to look at the Sefkind file we were told: You cannot see that. We want to see it. We will not be brushed aside by the Minister of Justice or by the government in this regard. Let that be clear.

It has been a record unequalled in Canada. This is an administration which has earned a reputation of being friendly and considerate to unpalatable characters such as Hal Banks, an administration which has had connected with it in responsible places men who were

concerned about the welfare of narcotics king Rivard—narcotics, the cruelest and most despicable form of crime which can be committed against the souls of men. What were they interested in? What did they want? What happens to a nation when things like that occur? The Prime Minister mentioned innuendo and insinuation. Was there any innuendo involved in the fact that the parliamentary secretary was forced to resign? Surely he was not asked to resign because of an innuendo or an insinuation.

• (4:30 p.m.)

Then the chairman of the Liberal caucus in parliament resigned because his name cropped up in the investigation of influence peddling, and the accommodation of people allegedly connected with the world-wide crime syndicate of the Mafia—the chairman of a committee resigning from his position because of the condemnation of a provincial commission.

What is the reaction of the government? The Minister of Labour (Mr. McEachen) is not here, so I will not make any observations on the statement he made when speaking the other day before a Liberal gathering at Richmond Hill. He said that unemployment problems no longer dominated parliament's discussions. Then he said that we now indulge in the luxury of talking about the latest prisoner's escape from jail. What a statement of government policy that is, to say that we now indulge in that luxury. How can any plan, any policy or any great concept of national importance succeed in its purpose unless we have re-established in this nation, by parliament, the concept of morality in high places? Profumo was not pushed out because of his activities; Profumo went out because he deceived parliament.

That is how serious this matter is. They were never so busy looking under beds for communists. I would like to have heard a statement such as this, and as a matter of fact I ventured the opinion that it would be a statement that in all parts of Canada "my ministers will take all steps necessary to stamp out corruption or influence peddling in government". If that had been there, it would have been a great declaration. I know the difficulties under which the Prime Minister operates. I occupied that position and I know the difficulties. But I also know this, that I never failed to make clear one thing, harsh as they thought it was, "If there is any suggestion of wrongdoing, you will be—

An hon. Member: In the Senate.