

• (1600)

The first, I suppose, should be called the theory of momentum. It appears that a certain number of academics, aided and abetted in some cases by the media, state that this government had lost momentum in the elections whereas the Conservative party had gained momentum, and that therefore, having lost momentum this party should resign. My only comment by way of advice to those academics is that if the theory of momentum were to apply to university life those professors should go back to growing radishes.

**Mr. Baldwin:** You have not lost momentum; you are going backwards.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The other argument of a political nature which was put forward to deny this government the right to meet the House of Commons is difficult to characterize. It appeared in some circles, but I suppose the clearest characterization of it is in an editorial called "Clinging to Power is a great mistake" which appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* for November 3, 1972.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Hear, hear!

• (1610)

**Mr. Trudeau:** I see that the hon. member agrees with the editorial, but perhaps he had better wait until I read a few phrases from it. The editorial indicates that the Prime Minister undoubtedly has the constitutional right to face parliament, but then it goes on in this way:

—frustrated English-speaking Canadians will feel that their wishes as expressed at the polls last Monday are being thwarted on a constitutional technicality by a party that owes fundamental political allegiance to Quebec.

This feeling is only too likely to be a positive incitement of an intensified anti-Quebec backlash of the kind that was an admitted factor in the fall of the Trudeau government from majority power.

The editorial continues:

—Mr. Trudeau now finds himself and his party with a majority of seats in only one province—the one from which he comes. He has a minority of parliamentary seats throughout Canada, and a majority of his minority represents the French-speaking minority of Canada's two major races and cultures.

In these circumstances, we think it a very grave mistake for Mr. Trudeau to try to perpetuate a government that has been overwhelmingly repudiated by the English-speaking majority.

Those are words, Mr. Speaker, which one would have preferred not to be written in a responsible paper. Unfortunately, they were written and I can only hope it is a very small minority of people who entertain such thoughts. It is very important for this government not to dwell on any answer to this kind of editorial except in so far as to say—

**Some hon. Members:** Then why raise it?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Hon. members want to know why I raised this. I raised it because I know there are members sitting in the Conservative ranks who, during the election, tried to divide Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

*The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

**Mr. Trudeau:** I hear them cry "Shame". The shame is theirs, Mr. Speaker. I see that they remember with not very much pleasure the kind of campaign some of them conducted.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Just let me say that as far as we are concerned we do not count members by their ethnic origins, and we do not count votes according to whether they were cast by English or French-speaking Canadians.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** You never heard all your Liberal candidates.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) will have the chance to make his speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** May we have order to allow the right hon. Prime Minister to continue his remarks.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I quoted from an article in a newspaper which is widely read in this country. However, I see the displeasure of hon. members opposite.

**Mr. Hees:** We don't like lies.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Try your Rosedale colleague on election night.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The hon. member will have a chance to make a speech and then he can talk about my Rosedale colleague. If he wants to quote specific Members of Parliament, I think I could name quite a few from his own party.

**Mr. Crouse:** Name them.

**Mr. Trudeau:** At a later point in my speech I shall be talking about national unity, and if hon. members wish me to name names I shall do so with pleasure. Perhaps I should not say with pleasure but, rather, with regret, Mr. Speaker. I think that this kind of reaction is a sign of a very guilty conscience.

**Mr. Alexander:** I have no guilty conscience.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The conclusion, then, that we drew from this electoral contest was that we had a political and a legal right to govern until this House withdrew its confidence from us. We had a right to do so, but we also had a duty to show to this House what we proposed to do in the session that is opening.

I repeat, the Speech from the Throne was a first attempt to lay down the general lines of our action. Speeches by various ministers in the days to come will, I hope, spell out in greater detail some of these courses of action. My own speech will largely be based on the reasons for deciding to form a government and on the two broad categories of reasons for wanting to come before this House of Commons.

**An hon. Member:** The first being divine right.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Divine right in a democratic country, I suppose, is something that is translated by the electorate. If I could quote Latin, contrary to the advice of Disraeli,