

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

work for the welfare, security and progress of men and women. Bread without freedom may be a stone, but freedom without bread and work to earn it is a mockery. If we cannot make the freedom we have work, then no declaration of words, however inspiring, will help us much or save us from some other form of government which will have far more of compulsion than freedom about it.

We on this side have no confidence in the ability of this government to give us this kind of leadership at this particular time of need. Indeed, this is a government of confusion, contradiction and unsteadiness; a government which thinks and acts primarily in terms of short range, narrow political advantage, gyrating from one move to another with all the circular sensationalism of a hula-hoop performance. As the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Van Horne) pointed out in his New Year broadcast, Canada needs something better than this, something better, to use his words, than mediocrity—and he was referring to the present government—which, he says, cannot be tolerated. We feel that way, too, Mr. Speaker, and because of that feeling I move, seconded by the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier), that the following be added to the address.

We respectfully affirm that Your Excellency's advisers, by reason of contradictory and confused policies; as well as lamentable indecision in dealing with grave national problems such, for example, as those concerned with mounting unemployment, no longer merit the confidence of this house.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I begin my remarks by congratulating the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) on the multiplicity of the topics with which he has dealt. He has spread himself out. He has repeated all the speeches which he has not been able to use with much effect in the country.

This speech has been delivered in more or less divided form throughout the recent pilgrimage he made across this country. As long as we have as many members as we started with the answer is given to much of that criticism. I recall almost a year ago in this chamber the amendment moved at that time, done with all the forcefulness that is apparent here today and done with all the effectiveness which was apparent today. But until the hon. gentleman described that speech himself I thought it represented his thinking. What did he say himself in describing what he had done in the amendment that he moved—for in the House of Commons you do not try to put over fast ones—the words he used dealing with the amendment he moved were these: "I tried to slip him

[Mr. Pearson.]

a fast one, if you will excuse the expression, but he belted it out of parliament."

We have had another of those fast ones today. I intend to analyse just parts of it and will leave to my colleagues the task of answering those remarks made by the hon. gentleman on this occasion regarding matters relating to their various departments. We heard from the hon. gentleman cascades of verbosity and torrents of denunciation but I shall deal with the facts without employing the attributes that he gave to his remarks.

I was particularly interested in the attempt of the hon. member to paint a picture of Canada as a place fearful in its prospects and frightening in its future. This is a picture not borne out by the facts and one that is not in keeping with the kind of attitude that one expects on the part of those who hold responsible positions.

During the course of his remarks the hon. gentleman quoted the report of a Canadian bank. I am going to refer to the monthly review published by the Bank of Nova Scotia, November issue, in which it is stated in effect that the recession was much less sharp in Canada than in the United States, which the bank suggests is indicative of the fact that what had happened was largely due to the energetic counter-cyclical measures taken by this government. The report of the Bank of Montreal is to a similar effect.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What did the president say?

Mr. Diefenbaker: The president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is reported in the Canadian Press of December 31 to have stated that Canada's economy now is heading in the right direction and Canadians can look forward to a better year. While we have had one recent skirmish, the battle is now joined against inflation, the press report indicates.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I cannot resist quoting remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition while abroad because even though the truth has to be exported, nonetheless it is appreciated that he spoke the truth as reported in the *Times* of London supplement of November 24, 1958. The title of this contribution made by the hon. gentleman is "Old World to Redress Balance of New". I ask hon. members to listen to these words and compare them with the picture the hon. gentleman painted today, one of darkness and danger, planting fear in the hearts of the Canadian people.

He spoke today about policies that he described as uncertain and endeavoured for political gain to frighten the Canadian people, to sow the seeds of fear in their hearts. I do