

Motion Respecting House Vote

enough. I am not going to do anything to oppose the trend." Are these to be some of the things that this government has in mind?

For the last several years Young Liberal Associations and university Liberal organizations have been bringing out resolutions to abolish the monarchy, and there has never been one word of condemnation or disagreement from the Prime Minister or any of the ministers of the crown. That is the kind of thing they devote themselves to despite the economic conditions that challenge this country and everything about it.

At a time when we are trying to bring unity to our country they come out with a new postage stamp. During the first world war I remember the great opposition of Henri Bourassa. He did everything he could to oppose, but now he is going to have his head on a postage stamp. Are you going to be fair and put Camilien Houde on the next one? What manner of political nonsense is this government engaged in, with issues facing this country the like of which we have not faced before? But they have nothing to worry about. They have had assistance from outside our country. They did not get it from Washington this time but they did get it from New York. In passing I want to refer to the degree to which the *New York Times* waltzed into action, if I might use that expression. It carried an editorial headed "Overdone Joke", and I quote:

It was good political fun for opposition forces to seize an unexpected opportunity to defeat the Canadian government in the House of Commons, but it would be irresponsible to carry the joke any further.

Who wrote that? Then in the last paragraph they said:

With the help of members from minor parties, Mr. Pearson should get it—

Meaning a vote of confidence.

Canada will be better off if he does.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am glad you have aid from abroad. You cannot find many editorials in Canada that say that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I should also refer to a news item in the *New York Times*, written from this building. No wonder the *New York Times* editorial department went astray. The news item included the following:

The Liberals were defeated suddenly when, in Mr. Pearson's absence, they were outmanoeuvred [Mr. Diefenbaker.]

by opposition forces, who called an immediate vote on the tax bill. The bill, which has been controversial, would put a 5 per cent surcharge on personal income taxes and add 10 per cent to taxes on liquor and tobacco.

The house had all but completed its debate and the Liberals had weathered two previous tests on the bill. After these the final, or third reading, vote might have been considered a formality.

The only excuse one can give for the writer of that article is that he has not got that regard for the truth which he should have or, if he has, he does not understand the British parliamentary system.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Now I come to the *Créditistes*.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have no desire whatever even to express the expectation of a hope that any argument will change them because, after all, was it not the leader of that party who made a statement the other day that he was going to stand firm and that this government should resign? The words he used outside the house were:

If we believe in Canada, that in a democracy, parliament is the real sovereign (power) of the country, in the present circumstances we can only say that the government has been beaten by a parliamentary majority and indeed should turn in its resignation.

That was the view that the hon. gentleman put out across this country. It is not for me to endeavour to enter into hypotheses as to the circumstances that made possible such a tremendous change in his attitude, but again I refer to the couplet:

A marcfiful providence fashioned us holler
O' purpose that we might our principles swaller.

What happened after his clarion declaration? No one knows.

An hon. Member: He got some external aid from the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No one knows. It is not for me to enter into any theoretical analyses, but I wonder. I do not suppose that in this house today one is denied the right to wonder. I remember so well what happened in the month of April, 1963, when a few days after that election suddenly six *Créditistes* sat down together and penned a message to the Governor General saying they were going to support the Liberals, and with that, of course, I advised His Excellency to call on another government.