

If it really cares, this government could do three things to alleviate the situation. First, DREE and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce could be more realistic, quicker to realize why we are losing these industries. They should provide the grants and incentives needed to make these industries stay in the area and become more prosperous. Secondly, I suggest that the Department of Transport, through the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, commence immediately the construction of a new Welland ship canal, the land for which was expropriated and paid for four or five years ago. The land is sitting there idle and being allowed to waste. Formerly it was good farmland.

• (1510)

The construction of this canal would have a double effect on the city of St. Catharines and the Niagara region. Firstly, this kind of project would tend to have a high labour content and would compensate somewhat for the miserable conduct of the government in relieving unemployment. Secondly, although St. Catharines lies within a radius of about 500 miles of markets of well over 100 million people, due to the lack of adequate road and rail facilities these markets have been effectively closed. With a new canal, with fewer but larger and deeper locks, as well as adequate harbour facilities, we would go a very long way toward solving this problem.

There is a third way in which I think this matter of growth can be cured, not only for St. Catharines but for Canada as a whole: it is for the government to take a realistic approach in combating the DISC program of the U.S. by encouraging the growth of secondary manufacturing industry within Canada. I suggest a Canada-square program consisting of sensible quotas undertaken against resource exploitation—the words speak for themselves. With this three-pronged approach I am sure we would go a long way toward solving inadequate growth not only in the Niagara region and St. Catharines but throughout the country.

The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), in using, if you will pardon the expression, Mr. Speaker, rather pregnant prose, described the mangled meeting which took place between the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) and the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis). I shall make no further comment than to say that when I heard about this particular incident my mind waxed somewhat lyrical as follows:

Two politicians alone in a room,
Both dreamed of power they wished to assume;
But they argued all night,
As to who had the right,
With what, and with which, and to whom.

The same right hon. member for Prince Albert, and the hon. member for St. Paul's (Mr. Atkey) also touched on the mumbo-jumbo recently espoused by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) regarding his constitutional authority to dissolve this House. That I will describe in one word—"poppycock". It is without a scintilla of truth, and I give him no credit for it.

When as a rookie Member of Parliament I first took my place in this House, I thought my job was fairly simple and straightforward, namely, to do the best job I could in getting good legislation through, not only for the people of

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St. Catharines but for every person in our beloved country. My hopes were soon dashed when I heard the Prime Minister on January 8. He reminded me of the man who was an agnostic until he realized that he was God. Then I, along with other members of the opposition, was subjected to vindictiveness, calumny, smear and character assassination. I happen to be very proud to be a Canadian and I think, with all humility, that I am a good one. Let me remind the Prime Minister of Iago:

He who steals my purse, steals trash. It is something, it is nothing. It was mine, it is his. Hide the tears. But he who filches from me my good name robs me of that which does not enrichen him but makes me poor indeed.

Then came the speech of the hon. member for York South, following which I went back to my office not knowing whether to laugh or cry. Sitting there silently, the words of a very old poem came to me and I should like to commend it to the Prime Minister and the hon. member for York South:

God giveth man a time like this to command.
Great minds, true faith, strong hearts and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office cannot kill,
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy,
Men who have opinions and a will,
Men who have honour,
Men who will not lie,
Men who can stand before a demagogue and damn his treacherous flatteries without winking,
Tall men who stand proud above the fog of public duty and in private thinking;
For a while the rabble with their thumbworn creeds,
Their large professions and their petty deeds,
Mingle in the common strife.
Lo freedom weeps,
Strong rules the land,
And waiting justice sleeps.

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish first of all to offer my congratulations on your appointment to your high office. I also congratulate Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I sit here and watch you perform your duties in the House, in the short time I have been here I have come to realize that yours was a most judicious choice and that this House is privileged to have a man of your wisdom preside over its deliberations. I also wish to extend my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Speech from the Throne; on their first appearance both certainly did a very honourable job.

I should also like to thank the people of Cardigan for the honour they have done me in electing me their representative in Ottawa. It is a great privilege, as well as a great responsibility, to represent a riding such as Cardigan. It is a challenge that I look forward to with great excitement. I think I have a fair knowledge of the problems of Cardigan riding, having lived there for so many years and having had the privilege of representing part of the riding in the provincial legislature of Prince Edward Island. May I simply say, Sir, that I intend to work my hardest and best on behalf of those wonderful people.

• (1520)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): I feel even more privileged because the people of Cardigan decided to elect me at a