

The Address—Mr. R. Caouette

I shall also take this opportunity to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Throne Speech, who expressed themselves well, although their primary function was to praise the government: that is quite natural on the occasion of the opening of a session.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to the leader of the Progressive Conservative party and of the official opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and also to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) who spoke to us, first of all, of the October 30 general election where we received 737,000 votes, 638,000 of which in the province of Quebec. And those votes were not intended to divide Canada. Indeed, we did not preach one program in one area of the country and another in the other regions.

Today, I heard the Prime Minister blame the opposition for having stirred the Anglophones against the Franco-phones; a while ago, the leader of the New Democratic Party said the Prime Minister was not serving the interests of Canadian unity in speaking of those matters.

Mr. Lewis: In the words he used!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, if you wish.

Mr. Lewis: There is a difference.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time to tell the truth even if it hurts. Among the members of the New Democratic Party, I noticed, during the election campaign, the strength of their leader's statements. He was consistent with himself. I give him credit for this. He did not say in Montreal the opposite of what he said in Vancouver. He said in Vancouver that the "French fact" was a real fact in Canada and that one had to accept it.

Mr. Lewis: Even in Port Alberni.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, even in Port Alberni. It does not mean that all his followers agreed with him and this is noticeable among all political parties. In Montreal or elsewhere within the province of Quebec, for instance, I have met a few members of the New Democratic Party who are as close to separatists as René Lévesque may be.

An hon. Member: What about your party?

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Some of our members may feel the same, but our position remains logical in any case, Mr. Speaker, not only in the province of Quebec but throughout Canada.

This afternoon, I heard the members of the Conservative party grumble when the Prime Minister said that in a few regions, they had taken advantage of the French power in order to get rid of the other candidates who opposed the Progressive Conservatives, and we could hear them say no, no, no. I went through western Canada myself—not in a jet or a helicopter—to hold meetings and in Saskatchewan I was told to my face that a Catholic French Canadian was not welcome in western Canada. And today the members of the Conservative party deny this fact.

[Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue).]

Mr. Speaker, some of the Progressive Conservative members who are with us tonight were elected thanks to the French power in Ottawa. One may grumble as much as he wants to, but how is it that in the province of Quebec the Conservatives have been badly received? Because of inconsistency. They sang one song in the west and another one in the east. That is why only two Conservative members were elected in Quebec, one in Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner), with a slim majority, and another in Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey), who got a good majority because he said publicly: I do not want to see Wagner in my riding.

Mr. Speaker, when I say that the Progressive Conservatives acted like hypocrites, it is true. The day before yesterday, I was on a radio hot-line in Regina from my Parliament office and I stated that some Progressive Conservative members were elected on the back of French Canadians. A lady from Swift Current wrote me since then; I think that constituency is represented by a Conservative member. What did she say?

[English]

Just listened to you on the "Harrison Line"—

An hon. Member: That's the Tories.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): There's the same old gang.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): And the lady told me the following:

[English]

Just listened to you on the "Harrison Line," Regina, and I wholeheartedly agree with you.

The English here in this province (not saying all, but a great many) are decidedly anti-French. My own very friends are anti-French (they are English and Scotch); have had many arguments with them. I am of Dutch descent.

Thank you,

It is signed "Mrs. M. Wall," Swift Current.

And then, Mr. Speaker, they will come and tell us that they worked for national unity.

During the election campaign I heard the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe promise old age pensions of \$200 a month at 60. His leader never spoke of that anywhere in Canada. The hon. leader of Her Majesty's very loyal opposition said today, stop the debate immediately to vote better old age pensions. Now he is beginning to like Canada's older people.

Mr. Speaker not so long ago—on October 13, 1970—the House voted on a sub-amendment moved by the New Democratic Party in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Both the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives voted against it.

We were asking for an increase in family allowances through a sub-amendment moved by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin). The Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives voted against it. The leader of the opposition was there; 150 members in all voted against it. For the younger people, the hon. member for Lotbinière moved a motion on the compensated dividend discount to increase the purchasing power—what the leader of the New Democratic Party just talked about—in order to fight unemployment. The Liberals, the Progressive Conservatives