

Alleged Lack of Government Leadership

You, Liberals, are responsible for that situation.

You want a general election? Well, you will have one. But you will be judged according to your past. You will be judged by electors who know that you have always been the party subservient to finance, a party which did everything to enrich the rich, and was satisfied with the crumbs.

The leader of your party denounces indecision. But what did he ever decide? He does not make his decisions himself. He changes his mind according to the wish of his adviser, who helps him write his speeches, whether it be Maurice Lamontagne or Maurice Sauve. When the Maurices change, so does his opinion. Most fortunately, one of them has lost some of his influence, because someone saw to it to defeat Lamontagne.

Mr. Speaker, the political situation has been discussed in the last two days. The Conservatives tried to explain the position of the Liberals, and vice versa.

I ask the Canadian people to judge according to what they have obtained from the old line parties. In the next election, how can the people declare themselves satisfied with what they have obtained in the last 96 years? How can they pretend to be satisfied when confusion has been prevailing in the country for the past several years, through the fault of our two old line parties, when labour is set against management, and management against labour, when there is still, after 96 years, a struggle for bilingualism and biculturalism, when there is only wrangling everywhere, when our resources are being developed by foreigners, when our taxes are higher than anywhere else in the world?

With all the information media at their disposal today, how can the people fail to understand that it is time to do something in Canada?

It is time for a change; that has been said before—

Mr. Caouette: We have nothing to lose.

Mr. Gregoire: We have nothing to lose. We must try something new, that is obvious.

Besides, there are several incompetent people we could lose and it would not matter much.

Mr. Speaker, for a few months already, the people who elected our candidates have been saying: We have not lost anything, let us keep them. To those in the other ridings, we say: You have nothing to lose either.

Tonight, we will be called upon to cast our vote. We will vote neither for one old party nor for the other. We are not interested in

[Mr. Gregoire.]

supporting them. We will not vote against something, but for something. In any case, we will vote according to our conscience.

A while ago, I heard the Prime Minister say: "But after the way the Liberal party has treated you, after the abuse they have thrown at you, surely you are not going to vote with them?"

No, because we believe that voting with them would be prostituting ourselves from a political standpoint.

On the other hand, we have put forth a reasonable and quite sensible motion, and they will be the ones who, for once, will have the opportunity of supporting common sense and logic.

Mr. Speaker, after the events which have taken place these last few days, I cannot help saying that, if the Canadian people had been able to follow, on television—as was once suggested by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau)—what goes on in the House of Commons, they would now be in a position not only to pass judgment but to realize that the two old line parties waste their time playing politics and do not worry enough about the people's interest.

I hope that at the next election the two old line parties will be sent back home in order to make room for those who are more competent than they are.

(Text):

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous debate in what may be the dying hours of this parliament. We have listened this afternoon to statements both by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Pearson) and I have no intention of getting into this controversy of the pot calling the kettle black. I have always felt that to be led down the garden path by either a Liberal or a Conservative would add nothing to one's pristine purity. In a no confidence motion a party with a small representation in this house naturally faces certain difficulties, because while we may not approve of the government, on the other hand a vote against the government would be interpreted in some quarters as being in support of the official opposition.

An hon. Member: Heaven forbid.

Mr. Douglas: A group like ours has considerable difficulty, of course, in getting its views before the public. If there is one thing the Prime Minister said this afternoon with which I agree, it is the fact that in recent weeks the press, radio and television of this country have certainly been playing a song closely akin to the desires and wishes of the Liberal party in Canada.