

Alleged Lack of Government Leadership

Mr. Gregoire: Yes.

Mr. Cardin: Does the hon. member not admit that, had it not been for NATO, Russia would have invaded the whole of western Europe?

Mr. Caouette: It has in fact invaded it.

Mr. Cardin: Not western Europe, eastern Europe.

Mr. Gregoire: Listen carefully—yesterday, some hon. members opposite said that you do not always ask intelligent questions, and you just did again. Do I believe that had it not been for NATO, and so on—come now. How should I know? NATO was there. Would Russia have invaded Europe had it not been for NATO? I do not know, no more than you do. If you have other questions, go ahead, but no hypothetical questions like that one.

Communism has never developed nor expanded over the world through wars—

Mr. Cardin: NATO was not in existence during the war.

Mr. Gregoire: —but always as a result of hardship. And from the day you get that into your little heads, you will really begin to fight communism.

Go through Canada, through this country of ours, go out in your constituencies and see how many people are unemployed, how many farmers are not even able to live on their land, how many people are living on unemployment insurance benefits, on unemployment assistance or on social assistance. You will find cases of extreme poverty. If you are near the people, you will notice that in the minds of each and every individual who is undergoing hardship in a rich country like Canada, there are germs of revolution against government, against parliament, against our institutions. Why? Because those people see that they cannot prosper in spite of the wealth of their country.

I can remember when, in the 1957 election what a walloping you took, you Liberals, and you are not through getting it on the nose unless you change your attitude. I remember when the Prime Minister and his ministers were making the round of constituencies in a "baby kissing" campaign. Indeed there was no end of pictures showing the Prime Minister kissing a small baby he was holding in his arms, while you yourselves went about the country repeating "Canada is rich, Canada is prosperous."

You were saying about the same thing I have been hearing since yesterday, when the

Conservatives claimed they have been doing everything, that everything is going fine, that production is growing, and so on. If that is so, why did they bring in the austerity program? But then you Liberals had done the same thing.

In 1957, all over the country, you were saying: "Everything is fine; we are rich; we are prosperous." Where was this country's prosperity, this country's wealth? The people took it upon themselves to tell you Liberals, that you had wandered away from them, that you no longer understood them, that you were remote from the real problems of the people, and the people took it upon themselves to send back home the group of ministers who were then cabinet members. Just remember that time, gentlemen.

But five years in the opposition have not been enough to open your eyes. Five years in the opposition have not made you any wiser. You have not changed, you Liberals, and your stay in the opposition has not been long enough. But, if it is any comfort to you, we will send a second old party to sit alongside of you next time.

The Liberal party today is thinking only in terms of petty politics. It is not concerned with the administration. What is the Liberal party, exactly? It is the party of taxation. Remember the financial situation of this country when you took office in 1935, and what it had become in 1957 when you went out.

Mr. Caouette: The party of taxation, the party of war.

Mr. Gregoire: The party of taxation, the party of debts that now weigh upon us. The other day, you voted for debt-free money, and you did not even know what it was. In fact, you have never even understood the first thing about it. You will never understand anything, because you grovel before big interests. When man is dazzled by the golden calf, he does not see anything on either side of him: he is blind. That is just about where you stand today. You did not understand anything.

The Liberal party, especially between 1935 and 1957—and the people now know it—has always sold our natural resources and our industries to foreigners.

An hon. Member: It was Duplessis, your leader, who sold them.

Mr. Gregoire: It was Mr. Duplessis, and it was also the doing of you Liberals. So it is that now, each year this country is being bled of our money to the benefit of the United States in order to pay out \$770 million in interest or dividends on foreign investments in Canada.