

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Mr. Alexander: The Prime Minister is making me nervous.

Mr. Trudeau: And he should be nervous, Mr. Speaker, because this is a very important matter. I would like members of his party to realize that one of the reasons historically why they have not enjoyed as much support in Quebec as they would have liked, and why they do not enjoy that success now, has little to do with the problem of organization about which the Leader of Opposition spoke, I believe in Alberta and Quebec after the election. It seems that the only thing needed for strengthening their support in Quebec is a better organization and getting their message through a little better.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): What do you lack in Alberta?

Mr. Trudeau: I am suggesting that more than that is needed.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): What do you lack in Alberta?

Mr. Trudeau: More than that is needed. I am answering the hon. member for Hamilton West. I am speaking of the kind of sensitivity I have alluded to and talked about this afternoon. It is the kind which is obviously not shared by the members of the hon. member's party—

Mr. Alexander: The Prime Minister is alluding to race relations.

Mr. Trudeau: —and without it they will not make inroads in Quebec.

An hon. Member: You have said enough on this subject.

Mr. Trudeau: As the hon. member says, I have said enough on this subject.

An hon. Member: Too much.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): There is enough innuendo, certainly.

Mr. Trudeau: Too much has been said, I am sure, for the easiness of hon. members opposite, or to put them at ease, but not too much to remind them of some truths which it is important to hear in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: What about the names?

Mr. Trudeau: At any rate, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: Names.

Mr. Trudeau: It is strange how some of the members who are the worst offenders in this case have not asked me to name names. Generally, it is those who feel innocent who have asked.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the Opposition asked me if I was including him, and I answered at some length. If

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any other member wants to know if I am thinking of him, I will tell him if I have any evidence on such matters relating to him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Smear!

Mr. Fairweather: Oh, yes, I have 130 names.

Mr. Trudeau: In any event, Mr. Speaker, we have included in the Speech from the Throne the following phrase:

Parliament will be asked to confirm the basic principles of the government's program for bilingualism in the public service.

That is an occasion to which we are looking forward, when members of the opposition with unanimity, I hope, will support not only the Official Languages Act, which is the law of the land, but the principle which underlies our faith in that act, and apply this Official Languages Act in many other areas where it is workable.

As in other areas, we will accept amendments if they are improvements. We will not accept them if they are contrary to the principle of the Official Languages Act, without which we do not think this country can continue to remain united.

An hon. Member: We will decide.

Mr. Trudeau: It will be an excellent occasion for individual members opposite who feel offended to stand up and be counted, and to say that in fact they do or do not support the principles and theory of the Official Languages Act.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1720)

Mr. Lawrence: Does the Prime Minister think that that act is synonymous with national unity?

Mr. Trudeau: The answer is a very simple yes. I am surprised the hon. member should have asked—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I hope to introduce the hon. member one of these days to the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) and perhaps, to the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle). Perhaps he will then be placed in a position to understand why the principle of two official languages is, indeed, fundamental to the unity of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The fact that the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham asked that question seems to me to prove the point I was trying to make. Perhaps he will want to tell us whether during the election campaign he did suggest that this government had mainly regard for the province of Quebec. I see the hon. member is seeking the floor to answer my question. I will gladly be seated to enable him to reply.

Mr. Lawrence: In a word, Mr. Speaker, no.