

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: He mentioned the policies of this government to downgrade volunteers in this country, that we were trying to take away from the private sector and from all those people who are trying to do good in this country, trying to monopolize the powers to the federal government.

I was on the Hill yesterday noon. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) was on the platform with me. We learned that for the Canada Winter Games, an institution created by the federal government under Mr. Pearson in 1967, which will be held in Brandon next February, there will be 3,000 volunteers in Brandon for 2,500 athletes in order to get the games working. We learned in Edmonton just last summer that there were 9,000 volunteers.

Mr. Paproski: Ten thousand!

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski) says 10,000. I think the whole thesis of volunteers being abolished by this government falls to the ground, just like most of the other points of the Leader of the Opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: He mentioned something about Loto Canada taking over from the private sector which is interested in sports. The Leader of the Opposition may not have all that rapport with sports, but he might at least know that it is the sports organizations which have been coming to the federal government asking us to create a ministry for sports, which we did under the very excellent minister of sports whom we have.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: They asked us to, for heaven's sake, begin funding them, which we did, rather than let it be only amateurism and kitchen table organizations, where our sports people were not given an equal chance with sportsmen from other countries.

The Leader of the Opposition talked about security matters and cover-up. We have heard a great deal about that in the last year or two. When the history of this period is written, I do not think it will redound to the glory of the Leader of the Opposition or to the members of that party.

We remember that that party was condemning us in 1971-72 because we dared to put GRC along with the initials RCMP on the uniform shoulders and the cars of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. That party was accusing us of destroying the sacred traditions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

[*Translation*]

The Leader of the Opposition does not even remember what the member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) said in the House, and what many members of his party also said. I think that at the time he was adviser to Premier Lougheed. He was not overly concerned with these things then, but he should be now.

[*Mr. Trudeau.*]

[*English*]

He should realize that if these sacred traditions of the RCMP are being destroyed by anybody, they are being destroyed by the members of that party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: When it came to light that some of the officers of the RCMP had indeed been involved in some unsavoury acts, and at that time we thought they were few in number, we proposed to refer them to the courts. An inquiry was set up in the province of Quebec, the Keable inquiry. The opposition was attacking that inquiry, saying that we should set up our own inquiry, that it did not trust the Keable inquiry. They said that we should set one up because the federal government was involved.

A few months later more facts came to light. We did set up a royal commission of inquiry as the opposition had requested, the McDonald commission. What was then the position of the Leader of the Opposition and his supporters? It was to say that whatever the Keable inquiry was doing was okay.

When that provincial commission of inquiry was looking into the federal RCMP and asking the federal RCMP to table documents which were private and secret, the opposition party at that time felt it perfectly legitimate for that provincial commission to inquire into a federal body. However, it did not trust the McDonald commission, which was a federal or royal commission of inquiry to do the job. They used terms like "cover-up", which they have never been able to substantiate. As successive solicitors general have shown, we have put before the McDonald commission every piece of paper that they wanted to look into.

I cannot go into every one of the fanciful statements made by the Leader of the Opposition. There are a couple more I should draw to the attention of the House before getting on with my speech. One has to do with the Kingston conference. This is beautifully typical of the Leader of the Opposition.

He went to Kingston to prove to this country that he can get along with the provincial premiers. There were four Tory premiers meeting with him in Kingston. He was going to show that his is not the way of confrontation but one of conciliation. He came back from Kingston with a very celebrated document showing how clever, intelligent, and persuasive he has been. When you look at what he has done, he has given away the shop to the provinces.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: No confrontation, Mr. Speaker. He promised the provinces he would give them the guarantees they wanted on equalization and spending power. These are two federal areas of jurisdiction. On both, as early as 1968 and 1969, we published in white papers, suggested modifications of the constitution which would circumscribe this federal power, but it is a federal power. Equalization is a federal law. The spending power is under federal jurisdiction. The Leader of the Opposition went there and came back with a great victory. He