

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

the secret of serenity is to be tolerant of the criticism, however undeserved he may think it is, and to be skeptical about the praise which probably will be equally undeserved. If the burden of office should sometimes seem too heavy to bear, let him be assured we will do our part to see that both the burden and the office pass quickly from his hands.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I offer congratulations to those who have been chosen to serve as ministers of the Crown. For Canada's sake we wish them well. Along with all of us, Mr. Speaker will have to become accustomed to the idea that while all the ministers opposite are equal in splendour and dignity, some are more equal than others; and some of the ministers are not opposite at all, they are hiding down the hall in the Senate. One of them has become the hero of hopeless candidates. He has proven that the best way to win is to lose. So now we have a cabinet where some are inners and some are outers. To compound the confusion, some of the inners do not have senior portfolios while some of the outers do. Some of the inners and outers are members of the House. They are called the in-House group. I dare not say what the other group is called.

I understand the in-House outers will be given free newspaper subscriptions to keep them up to date on what is going on in cabinet. Down the hall we have two inners and one outer who are being encouraged to become proficient in the use of carrier pigeons. We even have a doghouse group comprising outers like the now Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Grafftey) who originally found himself ceremoniously sworn in to absolutely nothing and then had his title abolished. Also we have an open-House group including inners like the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Hnatyshyn) who, after years of advocating open government, has gone into hiding and demanded that his entire department be given an unlisted telephone number.

Looking over the cabinet I am reminded that I have been telling Canadians for some time in another context that we should all lower our expectations. I know some of the veteran members across the aisle, who have been secretly writing "honourable" in front of their names for years in keen anticipation of the great day, are more than a little chagrined at being excluded from the cabinet. I can only offer them in consolation the certain knowledge that in time being left out of this cabinet will be seen to be the greater honour.

Much more serious is the total exclusion from the inner policy-making cabinet of representatives from the three provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba. Originally British Columbia was excluded as well, I am told, until a powerful lobby was mounted to persuade the Prime Minister that the Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment (Mr. Fraser) was more worthy than might immediately be apparent to the untrained eye. Also we have an inner cabinet where there is no minister as such from Alberta. Apparently the Prime Minister plans to speak in cabinet for Alberta and

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for Canada simultaneously, as though their interests were always identical. That offers small comfort to the majority of Canadians living in other provinces who do not believe that what is good for Alberta is automatically good for Canada. I think that has been established by the seeming inability of the Prime Minister to reach an agreement with the Premier of Alberta on a pricing policy for petroleum.

During the election campaign the Tories promised a new federalism for Canada. Who would have believed that they meant one in which no voice speaks for Nova Scotians in the inner council of government, no voice speaks for New Brunswickers and no voice speaks for Manitobans? Who would have believed that they meant a federalism in which the voice of British Columbia is barely tolerated as a reluctant afterthought and the voice of Alberta is presumed to be also the voice of Canada? To give voice to the voiceless, the members of Parliament of my party will go out of their way to ensure that before any government policy is translated into law, the Prime Minister and his inner cabinet will hear in this House from Liberal members the legitimate concerns of the people of Nova Scotia, the people of New Brunswick and the people of Manitoba.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: What about Alberta?

Mr. Trudeau: Hon. members are worried about the members from Alberta. That is the point I was making: None of them are in the inner cabinet and that should worry them indeed.

[*Translation*]

I should like now to touch upon the manner in which, as members of the Liberal party, we intend to play the important role of representatives of the official opposition. There is no doubt that the people of Canada have given the Progressive Conservative Party a mandate to govern Canada and want us to give them the chance to administer our country without being exposed to political interference and chicanery. Not only do we accept and respect the decision of the people, but we will take seriously the responsibility with which we have been entrusted to co-operate constructively in the preparation of Canadian policies.

The Liberal party demonstrated very early following the election its strong desire to constitute a positive and constructive opposition, and I, for one, agreed to discuss with the Prime Minister current issues and the various personalities he would have to deal with at the summit in Tokyo and the Commonwealth conference in Lusaka.

I am happy to say that there was no tension or hostility in our discussions and that they reflected our mutual concern to put the national interest above any partisanship. I am also happy to note and to recognize publicly that the Prime Minister has scrupulously respected the confidential aspect of our discussions.