

*The Address—Mr. Mongrain*

to the conscience of Canadians and tell them that they do not serve their country in such circumstances. It is too easy to blame the government for the unrest in the country. But if we look at the situation in all the countries of the world, we realize that things are going even worse than here.

With no partisan afterthought whatsoever, I submit that everybody would be better off if we forgot these selfish, mean, often childish considerations, and say: Well, our main concern will be Canada's welfare, the welfare of all those people whom we pity because, precisely, they are among the very people we call the poor whom we want to help.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you will allow me to make another suggestion? I do not claim to be an authority in labour-management matters, but I think—and I intend to bring this up again in a more specific fashion in due course—we should study the advisability of setting up labour courts throughout the country. Some circles are frightened of this compulsory arbitration, as it is called. However, all democratic thinkers have always thought that the simplest and fairest way to settle disputes was to have recourse to competent courts of justice.

If labour courts were set up, composed of competent economists and sociologists and people who know the labour code, 90 per cent of our strikes could probably be prevented.

This privilege could be left to workers in some sectors, but I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that the great majority of workers, even organized workers, are absolutely fed up with these unending strikes. They would be only too happy to find ways of settling their disputes without having to be unemployed and getting into debt for weeks and months on end, with the result that they are always the losers and that the general economy of the country is almost always being jeopardized.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insist again on my trust in the present government. This is for the guidance of the opposition which is worried and which betrays its concern. As for the opposition, it makes me think of the religious communities, Mr. Speaker. A member of the community goes to the front of the room while his colleagues at the back say of him: He is a liar, he walks badly, he has this or that fault; it is sometimes possible to find some. As for him, he has not even got the privilege of saying that it is not true.

On the government side, we can at least say to the opposition: You are wrong, you are

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deceiving yourselves, you exaggerate, you are going a little to far.

We have confidence in the legislation presented to us by the Prime Minister precisely because the Prime Minister is a perfectly competent man, whose studies were somewhat extraordinary. He has travelled all over the world. He is free from all personal considerations as to family or any other considerations. He has selected ministers known for their prestige and dynamism. He has chosen also some very good technocrats and I would add modestly, that he is surrounded by a good team of members, which reminds me of the following teaching of St. Paul who said: If I do not brag about myself, who will? Surely, the opposition is not going to brag about us, so we take the liberty of doing it ourselves.

In fact, I think the Prime Minister is setting up the necessary machinery that will enable him to realize the constructive program which will produce a society that is as just as possible. There is no use pretending that it will be paradise on earth, that poverty will disappear as well as our problems and that there will not be any more sickness or death or defeat on election nights. No, there are more trials to come. I should add that one of the reassuring things is that we have a good opposition, and I say this without any reservation. We have a conscientious opposition which lost some good elements but which has also acquired good ones amongst the young. We, of this party, find their work edifying. Even when their duty as members of the opposition makes them exaggerate slightly, they perform their duties well and one of the conditions of the success of this government will be the constant watchfulness of a good opposition.

I would even add, for the interest and guidance of our friends opposite, that there are, on occasion, some small oppositions within the party. With all those constructive elements and those well-intentioned oppositions, all those who want to understand clearly can hope that, within a relatively short time during the term of office of four years this government will have, we will know what a just society is in Canada.

I reiterate my invitation to the representatives of labour and employers and I ask them to comply with the invitation of the government for the common good of this country and put an end to the strikes which threaten our economy.