

The Address—Mr. Caouette

would ensure them a better use and distribution of our national wealth.

It is all very well to suggest that Canada enjoys the highest standard of living in the world, the unemployed and the large families who live on welfare find this is not so. That is the kind of stability that we know.

There is another exceptional sentence, a flash of genius from the government's advisers in the Speech from the Throne, which reads as follows:

The conviction is growing throughout the world that if man is to survive he must strive without delay to regulate his future. This is a task which presupposes a fullness of freedom and an extensive field of human experience.

What does that mean exactly? A fullness of freedom, what is it? An extensive field of human experience, what does that mean?

According to the government, would a fullness of freedom mean making the laws on abortion even more liberal, as suggested in the Speech from the Throne? If it is such a parody of freedom the government has to offer, we of the Ralliement Cr ditiste will continue to fight the Liberals' proposals on abortion, just as we did during the first session.

One of the last sentences of the Speech from the Throne is typical of the present government's attitude of Liberal promises over the years:

"We stand on the threshold of greatness".

How exhilarating! We stand on the threshold of greatness! That calls to mind the rhetoric of the Hon. Jean Lesage in Quebec in 1960. We stand on the threshold of the just society! The Liberals have been promising us that greatness for years. The Liberals, along with the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, promised us the just society to which all Canadians aspire. But they now admit that they were unable to give us this greatness and this just society. We still are at the threshold of a just society and of greatness.

Mr. Speaker, what should we do to attain this just society and this greatness?

The Speech from the Throne is quite clear on this point:

We must accept...that the most drastic reality is change.

To us this is the most significant sentence in the Speech from the Throne.

In my opinion, what needs to be changed first is the present government, and it will not do simply to put in its place the party on the other side, a Progressive Conservative government, because we have had one before and we were not better off. There is no difference between a Conservative and a Liberal apart from the fact that—as a Conservative put it on a television program—one is blue and the other is red.

The Liberal administration of the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent was replaced by the Conservative administration of the Right Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). The Conservative administrations were replaced by the Liberal ones of the Right Hon. Mr. Pearson and of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

We have changed only the driver of the cart pulled by a tired old horse whereas it is not the driver but the cart

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and the tired old horse which should be traded in for a modern car with a powerful engine.

This is what has to be changed. In other words, it is not the fact that we have a new driver or a new government that is essential to the economic and social development of the Canadian people, but rather the fact that we have a new engine, or, still better, a new financial system since the one now in use renders our resources barren, freezes them, taps them and turns them to its advantage.

Mr. Speaker, I am not the one who is responsible for this situation. It has been completely brought about by those who run the show. A federal-provincial conference was held here in Ottawa a few weeks ago. The ten premiers of Canada, along with the Prime Minister of Canada, got together to tackle certain problems. The constitution was discussed. Has it changed anything? No. The premiers did not know exactly what to put forward as amendments to the constitution.

The premier of Quebec said that roughly 50 or 60 per cent of the present constitution needs to be amended, but that they did not know exactly what to amend.

The Prime Minister of Canada tells us on television: We have made progress. The ten provincial premiers tell us: We have made progress. Progress where? Nobody knows. In what area have we achieved progress? God knows, but as for ourselves, we do not know.

However, all spoke to the Prime Minister of Canada of a common concern. In fact, British Columbia asked for an extra \$500 billion a year; the province of Quebec is asking that the constitution be amended in order to get a bigger share of tax revenue. The NDP government of Manitoba wants the same thing. Without exception, all have financial problems, and they have all told the Prime Minister of Canada so. The Prime Minister, who has his own way of saying things, in his own style of reply, told them: Gentlemen, I am happy to see you. You are short of money and I appreciate your position. It is unfortunate, but I have no money either. The only means I have to find money, is to get it out of the Canadian citizens' pockets. We administer with the revenue we have.

The premiers left for their respective provinces saying: Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, we understand that you are as "broke" as we are. You have no other means than we have.

And yet, the Prime Minister is conversant with constitutional law. He understands the Canadian constitution, and he knew it thoroughly even as a young CCF supporter in 1940, 1941, 1942. In fact, he remembers that time so well that he has just appointed an eminent member of the NDP to the Senate. Incidentally, he has not forgotten to appoint the former premier of Alberta, Mr. Manning, a Creditist.

Mr. Trudeau: There is still room for you.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of Canada is crafty; he is polluting Canadian politics by using the other parties in an attempt to surround himself with a somewhat sensible entourage.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Trudeau: There is still room for you!