

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Are you preaching for a call, Erik?

Mr. Nielsen: With respect to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) who, some say, has been consistent, although I fail to find any consistency in his conduct while in office—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Your leader said it.

Mr. Nielsen: —I invite him also to rise and take part in this debate. One thing I am concerned about is the introduction into this debate of rather racial overtones by the Prime Minister. The same course, to a lesser degree, has been followed by the leader of the NDP and by the leader of the Cr ditiste party. I am very concerned about this as a Canadian.

This is a personal viewpoint, Mr. Speaker; I do not speak for my party when I express it. With respect to the Prime Minister, after reading what I have been able to read about his past writings, and listening to him on the three or four occasions since 1968 when he has taken the opportunity to participate in debates in the House of Commons, I believe he has done more to encourage disunity in this country than any other prime minister in our history.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: And he did not improve matters today at all. If the Prime Minister had his way, he would allow this debate to degenerate into some kind of racist harangue, to divert the debate from the real issues, and from the real reasons that the election left him and his party in the sorry state in which they now find themselves. No one can overlook the fact that in the city of Montreal and the islands surrounding Montreal something in excess of one million English Canadians voted for the Liberal party. That certainly tends to go against what the Prime Minister was saying today.

I saw hon. members opposite, particularly the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) who has the good fortune to be bilingual and I have not, laugh when the leader of the Cr ditistes said that only two members on this side of the House were from the province of Quebec. That is no laughing matter, Mr. Speaker. Our leader has said time and time again since the election that we want to improve that situation. We believe it is important for Canada that it be improved.

I hear more snickers and laughter opposite, Mr. Speaker. I suggest there would not be any laughter if they had any true regard for having at least two healthy, viable political parties in Canada. It is no more a laughing matter that that happened to us in Quebec than it is that it happened in Alberta to those opposite. It is just as vital that there be representation throughout the country for those opposite as it is for those on this side of the House. Trying to shift the real reasons for the result of the election into this area does a real disservice to unity in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): How are you going to get away with this?

The Address—Mr. Nielsen

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I notice that the new Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) is very uncomfortable in his new portfolio. I am saying these things sincerely. He says I am not going to get away with it. I do not know what he means by that. I am being just as sincere as I am sure he thought his leader was when he was speaking.

It is essential that this kind of thing does not happen, if we are all concerned about national unity. I come from a part of the country that is fighting its way to get into confederation, not out of it. The truth is that the prime minister and his party came to this sad state of affairs in the election, primarily for economic reasons and secondarily for social reasons. They had a total disregard for the human decisions that were necessary in such areas as unemployment insurance, curbing inflation and the high cost of living. The Prime Minister felt that as a mathematician he could work out a paper formula and impose it upon the people without regard to the human qualities that must be considered in making such decisions. The idea of deliberately creating huge unemployment for the purpose of curbing inflation was unacceptable to the electorate.

Now the Prime Minister speaks of goodies. He accuses the Leader of the Opposition of contributing to national disunity by mentioning in Quebec City certain facts concerning the allotment of funds to particular provinces. I suggest that we have reached a very sorry state of affairs if we cannot discuss the facts concerning the administration of the minister's previous department, whether in connection with funds allotted to the province of Quebec, to the territory of the Yukon or the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. Stanfield: They were not all from his department. Mostly these were election goodies.

Mr. Nielsen: Not only did we criticize the national parks that were announced by the minister of northern affairs (Mr. Chr tien) on the eve of the election in the province of Quebec; we also criticized the waterfront parks mentioned by the ex-minister of energy, mines and resources who hails from Toronto. We criticized announcements by the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford) concerning dock development in British Columbia. Why single out one province on which to criticize the Leader of the Opposition?

We criticized the "byways and special places" \$50 million program announced by the minister of Indian affairs. We criticized Sharp's waterfront park in Toronto, estimated to cost \$30 million, and Basford's railway relocation program, costing \$25 million. We criticized Pepin's boost to STOL planes, to cost \$60 million, and we criticized the Minister of Finance's model city in Ottawa, estimated to cost \$400 million. We criticized the minister of Indian affairs—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I have known the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) for a long time and I know he would not want to misstate the facts. The program announced for Ottawa during the election would not cost a cent, because the federal government already owns the land.

Mr. Nielsen: All I can say is that if we have that kind of project going on in the city of Ottawa, we would sure like