

Before getting into my remarks on the Throne Speech, I want to make reference for what the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Gimaiel) said about the Manitoba situation. I see him conversing with his seatmate; I ask him to pay attention to what I say. He made reference to the situation in Manitoba. There is no doubt that it is a very delicate situation. That is the case any time we deal with matters which involve emotions, questions of conscience, deep beliefs and convictions of people. In this case it is a very emotional experience. I really do not think it does any good for a Member on any side of the House—and I say this with sincerity—to rise and say that the present situation in Manitoba is shameful and that there are people there who are trying to eliminate minority rights. That is not the case.

I live in Manitoba. The Hon. Member just made a case that my Leader should not talk about situations in which he has not been involved. The Hon. Member who just concluded speaking did exactly that when he referred to a situation about which he really has no understanding. I have had past conversations with him. He knows my feelings. I consider him to be quite a good friend. Although we have not had lengthy conversations, in retrospect the ones we have had have been very genuine and real; at least, that is the way I feel about them.

I think it bears repeating that we should all exercise caution in the language we use to describe the situation in Manitoba. Even though one is there, it is very difficult to understand it and to put it into words. For someone to say something which goes on the record of this House—that is, to call it shameful—does not really help the situation. That is meant as an observation and a word of caution to everyone as we in the House will probably be faced with a resolution coming from Manitoba very soon. When it comes before us, I think it is important for us to be able to deal with it as objectively as we can, without a lot of prior statements which can be thrown back and forth on either side and misinterpreted.

The Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean should know that because he feels badly. Perhaps I am taking too much latitude with what I think are his feelings, but I think he regrets some of the things he said in the House concerning the way he feels as a Liberal. I see him shaking his head; I take back what I said, then. However, I am sure he feels badly that some of his comments have been misinterpreted. Anything we can do to prevent misinterpretation is the right course of action when we consider what is presently going on in Manitoba.

I only have a few minutes before we adjourn for the luncheon hour, but I would like to talk briefly about the Throne Speech. I see it as being like a blueprint of the Government's plan of action in the upcoming session. I suspect that is largely how the Government views it. When one looks at the Throne Speech, one can get a little idea of or feel for the direction in which the country is going. There are something like a hundred promises in the Throne Speech. The record of this Government in the past in carrying out promises has meant more government, more regulations, more rules, more bureaucrats and more people telling us what to do. In addition to the hundred promises or thereabouts, there are something

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like 26 task forces, committees, boards, advisory councils and such things. Again that points out, at least in my mind, the direction in which the country is going. In many ways I think that is sad.

I have to concur with the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) who just made the point that we believe in free enterprise. We do not believe that freedom should be without responsibility or that it should be a licence to prey upon one another. It should be an opportunity for individuals to develop and make use of the resources, opportunities and individual qualities which they bring to this country. In many ways the more regulations, the more rules and task forces which the Government sets up, the tougher and harder it is for individuals to realize their collective potential so as to contribute to the potential of our great country. And I do think it is a great country.

It is with a certain amount of sadness, when all of us rise to speak, that people say we are partisan; that if the Government says that it is black, we would say it is white; that we simply oppose for the sake of opposing. That is not the case with many of us. Many of us feel for the country and in many ways would feel a lot better within ourselves if we could rise during the Throne Speech debate and congratulate the Government. I intend to do that in a couple of instances before I conclude my remarks. We should be able to rise and say that the country is going in the right direction and that the policies outlined in general form in the Throne Speech are the correct ones.

I want to refer very briefly to some of the comments of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in his reply to the Speech from the Throne. It is very rarely that he speaks in the House, but I thought he did an excellent job of setting up a whole host of straw men and then knocking them down. He was not being very accurate—and I use that word deliberately; I could use a stronger one—in pointing out some things. He mentioned that this Party was against things. He was good at saying that we were against things and that his Government were for them. For instance, he referred to metric, which has been in the news in past weeks. He pointed out that this Party was against metric. Certainly that is not the case. It is an example of setting up straw men and knocking them down for the sake of making a rhetorical, argumentative or debating point.

It is his Government that is against the imperial system. If he wanted to be intellectually honest, he would admit that. His Government is outlawing or is in the process of attempting to outlaw the imperial system. This Party has never been against the metric system. We have used it gladly, with accuracy and with precision. We have felt comfortable with it; but we do not feel comfortable with the Government continuing to legislate, regulate and tell us how we should conceptualize on things other than measurement.

I see Mr. Speaker getting ready to shut me down. May I call it one o'clock?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would never think of shutting down the Hon. Member, but I have a duty to inform the House that