

have their own unions, and there is also a growing tendency for public servants at all three levels of government in Canada to form unions. But the fact remains that the vast portion of the primary and secondary industries in Canada are organized by arms of U.S. unions. I, for one, believe that legislation to redress this imbalance has been needed for a long time.

I say this because other countries seem to be doing very well on the labour front without American based unions. When it comes to hard decisions, Japanese or German workers make the decisions for their respective unions, and American workers always act in their own best interests. It is not surprising that American workers inspired United States laws which restrict imports from other countries, including Canada, at the cost of jobs for many of their Canadian counterparts. If we had a national Canadian union movement it would not solve all our problems, any more than Canadian ownership of all our own industries would solve all our economic problems, but I do believe that a truly Canadian trade union movement is a matter of great importance, and should receive equal consideration when the question of foreign ownership is under study.

For all the reasons I have given, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell), the following amendment to the motion:

That the following be added to the Address:

"This House regrets that your Excellency's advisors by their inertia, indifference and parliamentary incompetence have chosen not to deal immediately with the problems affecting the Canadian people, and particularly the aggravated situation resulting from the current simultaneous high rate of unemployment and rising living costs."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, it is with very great pleasure that I take part in this debate which at least up to now has been quite interesting.

I should like first of all to congratulate the member for Stormont-Dundas on his re-election as Speaker of this House, as well as the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Assistant Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole (Messrs. McCleave, Laniel and Boulanger) who were elected to their present office.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to hear several speeches which were generally rather interesting. As for myself, I am returning to the House with a second mandate which seems to me quite clear, but I must not forget to congratulate, like several previous speakers, the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne (Messrs. Blais and Blaker).

I do not wish to dwell at length on the last election campaign. On the contrary, I think that there are many matters to be discussed, considering the hopes to which the Speech from the Throne have given rise among all the Canadian people.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to those people of my constituency who put their trust in me and who, in an overwhelming majority voted for the man first of all. I think they have understood the old saying that parliament or any other institution is as good as the men who make it up. I think that it is on this principle that, as members of this House, we must work in common. Like so many

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others I could, of course, remind you of several anecdotes about the last election campaign, but I do not feel this is the best place to do it. I would rather be tempted to look, on the whole, at the last election which took place in the country.

Evidently, it is easy for members of the opposition to say the party in power has lost the confidence of the people. I think it is important to underline that the ones who shout loudest about the deterioration of the party in power could at least admit that opposition parties did not get the confidence which all parties were looking for either.

As an independent member, I usually feel much at ease to discuss these problems.

• (1420)

Last night, during the vote on the amendment, I found out that no party had obtained the confidence of the majority. This is what had raised a doubt in my mind as to the value of the amendment proposed by the Progressive Conservative party, which could not allow me to favour its passing, since I was already aware of the fact that the objective that we must reach is that of the interest of the Canadian people.

The reasons of the election result of October 30 are numerous. Many people have thought that this could depend on an economic factor, others gave other reasons. I think that, in general, the government itself who, for four years, did not succeed in giving us this economic stability, has been one of the major factors of the decrease of its majority. But we should perhaps rejoice and yet entertain reservations as to what this government can achieve in the days or months to come.

The Speech from the Throne, as I said before, gave rise to some hope among the population. Can we entertain doubts? One can always have misgivings about an electoral program, about a speech like the one that was delivered. Should we already dally on taking the government to task for not having implemented some of the proposals put forward in the Speech from the Throne? We could also criticize the government for the present state of affairs.

For instance, why did the government wait until after October 30 to announce capital injections of the order of \$500 million, where we must admit that they are quite justified? A year ago already, we experienced the same problems. There again, it is never too late to make amends and I believe that we, as legislators, must nevertheless welcome the decision. In his own constituency, each hon. member should inform the organizations concerned of those amounts being made available to the provinces and municipalities in order to achieve some projects still at the planning stage.

Mr. Speaker, many people are concerned about the consequences of a minority government, but considering the announcement made of the availability of \$500 million and the excellent suggestions contained in the Speech from the Throne, we should rather discard worries and believe that a minority government may be beneficial to the population, since the various political parties will no doubt try to do more and better with the prospect of a forthcoming general election. The fact remains that