

side of the House want is a united Canada, a Canada that includes Quebec and which offers equality of opportunity to all the people of our great nation. I believe the great majority of westerners are moderate, open-minded, and good willed in their perception of fellow Canadians everywhere, including French-speaking Canadians. These reasonable views are being corrupted and debased in terms of perception elsewhere, not by westerners, but by a belief, fostered indirectly by Liberal politicians and adopted without examination by other citizens who ought to know better, that any breath of opposition to either the Liberal party or to its official bilingualism program is by definition racist. That just simply is not so.

● (2010)

The Trudeau administration has been despised in western Canada for more than five years, not because of its bilingualism policies, but because it has provided astonishingly bad government. It has failed to comprehend, let alone face, some of the deep-seated western anxieties about that region's own role in Confederation, and Bill C-19 is a fine example of that. It has failed to provide even a modicum of sensible government for the nation as a whole.

In a more local sense, the government has plundered Alberta's natural resources in a manner which, had it tried even a fraction of it in Ontario or Quebec, would have led to the fall of the ministry within a few weeks of the attempt.

It is important to restate a western view and to refute some of these dismal propositions at this time because the growing mythology has implications far broader than just a general smear of western Canadians. It suggests that the national Conservative party under our capable leader cannot by definition lead this divided country, and it merely panders to the Liberal notion that they, and they alone, are fit to govern.

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, lots of westerners regard aspects of the bilingualism policy with disfavour—not so much because those aspects are sinister but because they are silly. The packaging and labelling regulations, in combination with the grim dictate that the dismal chemicals that comprise so much of modern food be listed in the two languages, produce a two-tongue clutter in this region to the general benefit of no one.

The expensive attempt to educate civil servants in a second language was known to be a failure in western Canada long before the government acknowledged it. Westerners argued for years that the way to approach language was through the schools. Instead of learning about these things and seeking to assist them, the new Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts) sits in Toronto and gives interviews, including the hoary old yarn about the westerner who supposedly believed that a mountie would one day tell him that he must learn French. This man, Mr. Speaker, promises to succeed fittingly his predecessor as a promoter of narrow nationalism which is as repugnant to western Canadians as it is to Quebecers because it seeks to bottle up all Canadians in their own juices and insulate our tender minds from people in other parts of our country.

Restraint of Government Expenditures

There are many perfectly legitimate points of discussion surrounding Quebec's relationship with the other nine provinces. There always have been, there always will be. We know that in Alberta with particular force, because many of Quebec's positions are also Alberta's positions. The two provincial governments had a relationship that was among the closest of any that has existed between two governments in this all too often squabbling nation. That relationship is perfectly well known to Lougheed's voters, and they do not attack him for it.

One constant western preoccupation is with transportation of people and goods. It is surely self-evident that mutual understanding between people would be greatly enhanced in this vast country by the provision of cheap and easy travel. Instead, the Liberal government doggedly espouses a user-pay transportation formula which militates most strongly against those in the extremities of the nation. They have increased the obstacles to travel, not decreased them, except for members of their own jet set.

We have a Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) who has cost the Canadian taxpayer some \$740,000 for his air transportation, when commercial flights are available to him which would cost the taxpayer a great deal less, flights that the majority of other MPs use. Of this \$740,000, some \$8,000 was used by him to attend last year's Grey Cup game, and in excess of \$10,000 was used by him to attend a party put on by his brother-in-law.

What kind of credibility can the government possibly expect when we see one of the ministers of the government wantonly spending tax dollars whenever the whim strikes him to take to the air? After all, Saskatoon is not exactly an isolated, inaccessible outpost that cannot be reached by regular daily flights.

Bill C-19 is insincere, Mr. Speaker. It is designed to persuade the general public that this is only the tip of the iceberg, and simply indicates the kind of savings efforts the government is making. I am appalled at the way in which the government can play games with figures when it wants to sell a particular philosophy or policy. This government's instincts for manipulating for political gain never cease to amaze me.

We all know there is lots of room for the government to tidy and tighten its own operations. I refer specifically to the way in which the government, its agencies and departments, control their internal financing. I do not suppose improvements in this area would attract too much attention in the press, nevertheless restoring proper financial and parliamentary control is one of the gut issues we face.

The financial control and the management systems of the Government of Canada, its agencies and departments, are significantly below acceptable standards of quality and effectiveness, and I do not know how long the government expects the Canadian people to swallow the blatant inadequacies and devious techniques that it has fostered. What we want in Canada, Mr. Speaker, is a government that is willing to deal with its citizens openly and honestly, not a government that hides the truth.