

The Address—Mr. A. Stewart

to give. However, they also criticize the taxation set-up, which shows the inconsistency of their criticisms.

I am convinced that the Liberal government is doing its best under present circumstances and I am pleased to give it my humble support.

(Text):

Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) when he was secretary of state for external affairs made a speech in Hamilton. He was speaking to the politics club of McMaster university. In the course of his address he dealt quite extensively with the matter of housing, and he gave us his opinion as to how the housing problem, which is greater now than it was then, should be tackled. But what was clear and explicit in his speech was the fact that he was opposed to subsidized housing. The right hon. gentleman said:

I'm against subsidized housing because it would be available to a few privileged ones.

Of course there he showed a complete lack of knowledge of the whole philosophy behind the concept of subsidized housing; for it is not designed to help the privileged ones but rather the underprivileged. He went on to say:

It would be risking temptation to put into the hands of politicians a few thousand houses which could be given to certain persons. It would be a temptation to buy votes.

That was rather an unhappy aspersion, I suppose, upon his own colleagues; but I did not believe it then and I do not believe it now because of course subsidized housing would be handled by the municipalities or else by the provincial governments concerned. I point that out to show that the right hon. gentleman was sincerely opposed to subsidized housing and yet the government of which he is the head today is prepared to support subsidized housing. In other words, the right hon. gentleman changes with the years, as does the party of which he is the head.

The interesting fact about the Liberal party is that it thrives on theft. The more ideas it can steal from the C.C.F. platform the happier it is and the more successful it seems to be. I have no objection to that whatsoever when those ideas lead to increases in the welfare of the Canadian people; but I think it only fair to say that the Liberal party does resemble somewhat a jackdaw in its acquisitive instincts. But yesterday the Prime Minister made another categorical statement. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) asked him in effect what was the government's approach to federal aid to

education. The Prime Minister again spoke quite forthrightly and he said as reported at page 1355 of *Hansard*:

While I have the responsibility as the head of the government I would have to ask my colleagues to join with me in refusing to consider such a request.

Or to put it in a more peremptory way, the answer would be no. Well, I have no doubt that within a few years' time—this is not a matter of prophecy; it is a matter of fact—whatever government is in power in Canada will be entering into negotiations with the various provinces to assist education, not in the sense that anyone will attempt to take away one iota of provincial jurisdiction in the matter of education; but the fact is that the provinces and the municipalities need help if we are going to have the same high standard of education that we desire across this country. And so I think once again we shall find the Prime Minister—if he is then Prime Minister—eating his words. We shall again find the Liberal party espousing causes which were first of all presented to the house by this group, the C.C.F. party.

With respect to the demand for federal grants for education, let me place on the record this letter to which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre referred yesterday, and which the four Winnipeg members of parliament received from Mr. A. F. Allden, secretary-treasurer of the Winnipeg school board. It states:

Dear Sir:

Re: Federal government grants to education
I beg to inform you that at the regular meeting of the school board held on the 20th instant, the following resolution was adopted:

The letter is dated November 23, 1951.

"Whereas the burden of taxation is becoming a problem to the small home owner in the city of Winnipeg;

"And whereas the aid received from the provincial government of Manitoba toward the educational costs of Winnipeg is almost negligible;

"And whereas the educational costs are a large part of the Winnipeg city budget;

"Now therefore be it resolved that the Winnipeg school board request the federal government to extend grants in aid to education and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Winnipeg members of parliament asking them to support this request at this session of parliament."

Of course we do request that. I have already informed the Winnipeg school board that my colleague, the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Knight), who has led this fight for federal aid to education, will carry on that struggle again next year.

Another matter about which I wish to speak is the plight of recipients of war veterans allowances. I support wholeheartedly the amendment before the house. In this connection I should like to read again