

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

market through the periodical press will, from today, be laying their plans in ways that will give greater and more assured support to the truly Canadian publications.

The government has considered the relationship between the recommendations of the royal commission and our commercial obligations to other countries under the general agreement on tariffs and trade. The commission establishes very clearly that the issues at stake, both in regard to imported magazines that carry Canadian advertising and in regard to the non-Canadian magazines that print and publish in Canada, are not essentially of a commercial character but go into the very fabric of our culture.

Mr. Hellyer: You are reading your speech.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Nevertheless, we are not unmindful of our international obligations and will carry forward the appropriate consultations in regard to the lines of action upon which we have now decided, with any other governments that may be concerned.

In conclusion I wish to emphasize most strongly that our proposals involve, to use the language of the commission, "no interference with editorial comment, no tax on ideas or information, and no actual interference with readership preference". Under these proposals the right of all Canadians to subscribe to, or buy at the newsstands, the magazines of their choice, will be fully maintained.

Mr. Hellyer: Six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: I hear an hon. member say "six o'clock". I take it that the Prime Minister has only a paragraph to finish. Does the house accord him leave to finish it?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Hees: "Six o'clock" has been called.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that the house has given leave to the Prime Minister to finish, if he wishes to do so.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then I conclude with these words. Thanks to the studies and recommendations of Mr. O'Leary and his colleagues, we shall be putting before this house, in due course, measures that will offset the competitive handicaps under which Canadian periodicals have been labouring, while fully protecting the reading preferences of the public and fully preserving the freedom of the press.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I shall now deal in general terms with the subject matter of the amendment and also with the several matters to which the Leader of the Opposition alluded, leaving to my colleagues in the several departments the responsibility of going into greater detail in answering many of the generalities which characterized the remarks of the hon. gentleman. However, I do follow him in his courteous reference to the mover (Mr. Bourdages) and seconder (Mr. Browne, Vancouver-Kingsway) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He stated that the course he followed was traditional but none the less a necessary course to be followed in the House of Commons. Indeed, the hon. member for Laval and the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway, young men in their early forties and members of this house for a number of years, discharged their responsibilities in a manner that deserved and merited the congratulations of all. I can think of nothing more difficult and no position more trying than that of being the mover or seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

The Leader of the Opposition dealt in a generous way with by-elections and the like, not federal by-elections because you will remember there were four not so long ago which the prophets in the opposition said they were going to win. They came back with one of the four they anticipated. In any event, I should like to draw the attention of the house to the attitude of the late Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King as recorded by Boswell. It is interesting to read something of that mythical dissertation which was interrupted recently. I think it would be a great benefit to history if it were permanently interrupted but it is not going to be. This is just an interim break. But it is of interest in reading "The Mackenzie King Record" to see these words recorded by the hon. member for Bonaville-Twillington (Mr. Pickersgill):

On August 9, the government had lost four by-elections and on the way to the Citadel from the station, Churchill told Mackenzie King he hoped "the by-elections are not causing you worry". I said I had expected to lose all.

Then Churchill explains the reason. He said:

"My experience is that by-elections don't mean anything when you come to place a really large issue before the people." At another time he referred to the by-elections as a fire started on ice, that it blazed up very much at the beginning, but did not necessarily spread... went out after a while.