

*The Address—Mr. Noël*

time, bombs explode in mail boxes and in a plant where a strike is on. There are thefts of arms, dynamite and bank hold-ups. In the meantime, Quebec politicians say that their province is different from the others. Some talk about equality or independence; others about sovereignty and association. Everyone has a theory of his own.

Publicity surrounding those events is well organized and well controlled by people in most of the media. Some people become worried and warn the authorities. The answer is always the same: Do not worry, freedom of speech must be respected. There must be no limitation of a freedom for which such a high price was paid. News-men, press attachés, old and new, become the most eager champions of freedom of expression. Most of them do so in all sincerity. Here is what Jacques Tremblay wrote in *La Presse* for Tuesday, October 20, 1970:

—for many years, right-minded people sided with the theoreticians of crime, as a means of collective liberation. In order not to appear to defend the Establishment (which is bad for the reputation of a "thinking man"), one had to somewhat support "revolutionaries", didn't one? Some recognized their many literary qualities; others found a sentence they were in agreement with; and still others accepted the objectives but rejected the means. Finally, by splitting hairs, you can sanctify the devil himself.

As events develop rapidly, there are increasingly more acts of violence and of greater scope: Bombs go off at the Montreal Stock Exchange. The data centre at Sir George Williams University is destroyed. There are demonstrations in front of McGill University. Several editors blame the Montreal police force. On October 7, 1969, there was the Murray Hill incident and the police strike in Montreal. And that is not all. Six persons were killed in seven years. There were trials, a few convictions, several parolees. The educated frustrated are becoming dangerous. Recent events have traumatized us. There must be an end to that. The only thing one could do has been done, intelligently and courageously.

We must now learn from these events. We are all responsible to various degrees. We must study the true causes of all the ills of our sick society. The causes of the unrest which bred violence are numerous and varied.

One of the main causes of violence lies in the injustices which our social order breeds and tolerates, too often because it does not have time to cure them. To this one must add the lack of confidence and the impatience of the young in the face of the problems they foresee in the future. Finally, individuals and groups react differently to other causes.

Although the task is difficult, we must not hesitate. All levels of government must cease to indulge in petty politics. If we want to save our democracy, let us place democracy ahead of partisanship. Let us set up priorities, which is something Parliaments do not always do.

The first duty of a member of the opposition is to criticize, conscientiously and reasonably, what legislation the government introduces, with a view to finding its weaknesses and making suggestions to improve it. In that respect, some improvement can be seen in the work done in committees. The second duty of a member of the opposition is to criticize in a responsible manner. The opposition does not have the right to keep harassing the government with all kinds of pestering, with an eye to its

[Mr. Noël.]

own political interest. The population is more responsible than that.

Let us get down to work with determination. Let us not waste any more time, because there is none to waste. Let us redouble our efforts to discover new means of social, economic and political action, in order to bring those who have more closer to those who have less, without disturbing the balance which must be maintained at all costs. It is essential to provide means of communication between the various groups which make up society, and to fill at last the ever widening gap between generations. Let us train an army of qualified and honest missionaries in order to make the people aware of the problems facing governments. People will be willing to discharge their responsibilities, if everything is made quite clear to them. Let us find a means to create a new positive motivation.

[English]

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin my remarks by extending congratulations to the hon. member for Bourassa (Mr. Trudel) and the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I should also like to express my appreciation for this opportunity to add my comments to the excellent speeches that have been made by my colleagues from both sides of the House.

Like all my colleagues, and indeed all Canadians, I had been looking forward to the presentation of the Speech from the Throne. I was hoping that at long last the government would offer proposals to this House for measures, as the hon. member for Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Alkenbrack) expressed it the other day, that would clear the way for the enormous backlog of serious problems facing the country.

I recall that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) urged the Canadian people to give him a majority government so that he could enact the kind of legislation that would reverse the trend in this country toward regression and depression. The Prime Minister promised employment for all who would work. He promised a society wherein all Canadians would have an equal opportunity to prosper, equal rights under our laws and a voice in their government. We were told that if he were given a majority government and a mandate, he would create a just society based on the prosperity of the individual through participatory democracy.

The words and phrases have changed, Mr. Speaker, and the leadership has changed—but the situation remains the same; in fact, it has worsened rather than improved. Unemployment has increased to the point where we can say to the world that we are the champions. We are the undisputed title-holder in the game of unemployment. That is our position. The government is playing a dangerous game with our national economy, and the Prime Minister has told the Canadian people that if they don't like it, they can lump it.

● (5:50 p.m.)

It has been repeated in the House over and over again that we in Canada have everything we need to provide