

The Address—Mr. Rouleau

than only bread and games, they want a sound administration which will ensure economic stability as well as full employment in Canada.

Before I leave this matter of congratulations, I should like to point out a historical event which took place in the province of Quebec last December and more particularly in a part of the riding which I represent in this house. I refer to the election of Mrs. Claire Kirkland-Casgrain, the first lady to be elected to the Quebec legislature. Mrs. Kirkland-Casgrain will blaze a trail in Quebec, because she will open the doors to all the women in the province of Quebec who will want to take part in political life, either in the Quebec legislature or right here, in the parliament of Canada.

Mrs. Kirkland-Casgrain, whom I had the pleasure of knowing when I read law at McGill University, is a devoted mother, a perfect and talented wife who will be a credit to women in provincial politics. And because she is a dutiful woman, every one in the province agrees that she will have a brilliant political future. Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, that I worked on her behalf during her electoral campaign.

Mrs. Kirkland-Casgrain is a Liberal who has gone to join, in Quebec, the team that now directs the destinies of my province, the team that rid Quebec of the dictatorial government that was in power far too long.

The team headed by Hon. Mr. Lesage will see to it that Quebec plays its role within the confederation so that the province will achieve full economic development.

Mr. Pigeon: A team of geniuses.

Mr. Rouleau: Whether the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm likes it or not, I am paying tribute to the first woman ever to be elected to the Quebec legislature and in so doing, I should like to honour all the women who take an active part in politics throughout Canada and especially those who sit with us in the House of Commons.

I should like to mention in particular the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Miss La-Marsh), whose many talents are now known to us, and the hon. members for Grenville-Dundas (Mrs. Casselman), for York-Humber (Miss Aitken), for Kings, P.E.I. (Mrs. MacDonald) and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mrs. Fairclough).

[Mr. Rouleau.]

All those ladies are the pride of womanhood just as Mrs. Kirkland-Casgrain will be in the Quebec legislature. I know that hon. members will join with me in this tribute.

Reverting to the matter under discussion during this debate, and before dealing in particular with the speech from the throne, I should like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address, Messrs. Bourdages and Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway).

Those two members performed very well the thankless task entrusted to them. However, when I listened to the hon. member for Laval, I thought for a moment that we were back to the times when Mr. Duplessis was in his heyday and when his philosophy prevailed in the province of Quebec. As a matter of fact, when Mr. Duplessis was Quebec premier, he liked to hear his scribes and friends call him the greatest premier since confederation.

As far as the present Prime Minister is concerned, the member for Laval was a little more modest, fearing no doubt the anger of the late Mr. Duplessis. He said that the Prime Minister was one of the greatest since confederation. Carried away by his enthusiasm, the hon. member exclaimed:

—Hail, thrice hail, Mr. Prime Minister.

What a charming sight, Mr. Speaker. For a moment we might have thought we were at the Grand Guignol.

But why this acclaim? Why acclaim the Prime Minister and this government? Why applaud the period of unemployment which we have been going through for the last four years? Why hail them for the slowing down of our economy? Why commend them for the loss of our foreign markets, and for the loss of Canadian prestige on the international scene? Why acclaim them for the blunders regularly committed by the members of the cabinet, and hail them for the contradictions we note between members of the same cabinet? Shall we applaud them for the confusion prevailing on our political scene?

Mr. Speaker, either the hon. member for Laval is blind and fanatical, or he is a very good comedian, and a poker-faced one, too.

Mr. Pigeon: Tell us about the two flags.

Mr. Rouleau: And after having praised the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and this government's policy, the hon. member for Laval revealed something we probably were not aware of, that is that our country consists of ten provinces. Following this terrific speech, the hon. member confers upon the present Prime Minister the title of "Father of modern Canadianism".