

The Address—Mr. Lang

and bring employment so that all Canadians will feel a part of this country. It means a definition of full employment in percentage terms and a commitment to reach that objective within a prescribed period of time. It means a promise of immediate and substantial cuts in personal income taxes as the basic means of stimulating the economy to full employment. It means a full employment budget which reveals to the House of Commons whether revenue and expenditure programs of the government are, in fact, designed to stimulate the economy to full employment. It means a willingness to use wage and price controls to abate further inflation as we stimulate the economy rather than holding down basic economic growth. It means a policy on bilingualism that starts in the elementary school system so that our future public servants will be prepared for a fully bilingual public service.

• (1700)

Canada does have much to offer. But the benefits of being Canadian should be a right of every citizen of this country. We cannot continue to forget our people—the people who elected us all. They had a message and we had better listen. Neither the Progressive Conservative party nor the Liberal party has a mandate from the election. However, parliament has a mandate to choose a government best able to get the economy back to full employment and to abate further inflation.

The throne speech debate is important because, 264 Members of Parliament have to reach the best decision on this question as soon as possible. Much time has been wasted. There are many other challenges to be faced. Therefore, a government must be chosen and given a mandate to put the economy in order swiftly and to get on with other frontiers for this decade. Poverty must be eliminated; regional disparity must be tangibly reduced; a new industrial strategy must be constructed; there must be urban reform, rural rehabilitation and environmental improvement. And, in all of this, people must count. People must be involved, and considerations, judgments and decisions must be based on their desires, expectations and needs. To do this, we must have a government that believes Canadians can do bigger and better things for themselves. Bob Stanfield would be that kind of Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reynolds: And when he is, and only when he is, will Canada and its people be truly strong.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, I think you very much for the privilege of giving me the opportunity to make this speech on behalf of the residents of Burnaby-Richmond-Delta who elected me to this House.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my first words on rising in this debate must be of sincere congratulations to Your Honour on again assuming the important office of Speaker of this chamber. These past four years I have watched with admiration as you dealt with the interesting and difficult situations which came before you in the House, and at the manner in which you

[Mr. Reynolds.]

dealt with tempers and problems. I am confident that you will find it possible to maintain the order we require in this interesting and complicated House of Commons in which you preside now.

I was delighted to listen to the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais) and the hon. member for Lachine (Mr. Blaker) as they began this debate on the Speech from the Throne, and I congratulate them on the manner in which they dealt with the interesting character of their own areas.

I am a representative of a broad expanse of the western Canadian region, with a significant distance of country between myself and Liberal colleagues both to the east and to the west. I have heard a good deal of comment on the causes of the results in the recent election campaign, but of course I come from an area which has been struggling for some time to gain additional Liberal representatives in the House of Commons, and we will continue that struggle most manfully.

I was interested to note the remarks of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds) who preceded me, and who seemed to argue that it was in fact the basic economic issues that affect the country which could be said to be the whole or the main cause of the results in the recent election. In other words he tried to say this, yet when he turned to his own province, which presumably he knows best, he suggested it was the parole and penal system which contributed most greatly in British Columbia to the defeat of the government. I was surprised that, later in that context, he thought we ought not to give too much attention to that particular problem, and I would be glad to hear later his explanation for that logic.

Looking at the move from Liberal to Tory voting columns in the five western province, I deny that this represents significant evidence that there are Archie Bunkers in abundance in the western half of the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: It is true that there may be such characters here and there, in one region or other, and I particularly think such a person is probably to be found on the executive of the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner). For instance, I notice that in the course of the recent campaign the present Conservative member for that riding chose to run an advertisement in which he introduced some elements that I, for one, regret to have found quite common in western Canada. In this advertisement in the *Albertan* on October 23 there is a picture of the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and of the candidate, now the hon. member for Crowfoot. The first of the four reasons given for supporting the hon. member is that, "He has fought over-expenditure of Canada's tax dollars in Quebec". Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual for opposition members to talk about over-expenditure by a government of the public's tax dollars. That I understand, but I think it is clear that here a particular appeal is involved when a particular province is singled out in this way, more especially when the evidence shows that the programs which could be related to that charge are equally or more beneficial to the Maritime region. One has to ask why that province is singled out rather than the maritimes.