

The Address—Mr. Denis

nail, with their friends of the Union Nationale. In fact, you will recall that in the province of Quebec, their friends of the Union Nationale took pleasure in repeating all the time Duplessis gives to his province but the Liberals give to other countries. Do you know what they have done? They have doubled the amount of our contributions and now, they approve of the plan.

Mr. Pigeon: Why not quote what we said?

Mr. Denis: They go a little further. They talk of the support Canada gives to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Something new. Another Liberal initiative for which the Conservatives try to take credit. However, it is the continuation of a fine Liberal piece of work.

Mr. Valade: Talk about conscription.

Mr. Denis: And the government goes even further. In fact, the speech from the throne announces that the government follows closely the negotiations regarding the common market.

Mr. Speaker, you heard about Accra. You know in what way the government, and especially certain ministers, follow closely the negotiations regarding the common market. One would rather be inclined to think that they follow them from afar. Some say: We will try to join the common market. Another minister says: No, we cannot do it. That is the policy of the present government.

Mr. Ricard: Listen to the clown of the opposition.

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, the present government—

Mr. Ricard: The clown of the opposition.

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making that remark for the second time. You have heard that serious-minded gentleman who is always talking about kill-joys.

Mr. Ricard: The clown of the opposition.

Mr. Denis: The brain of the Conservative party.

The present government states that it is in favour of world trade—because it claims to have discovered that we are an exporting country. The first thing it did when it came to power was to reduce by 15 per cent our trade with our best customer, the United States.

That is how the government decided to act with regard to our exports to countries anxious to buy our products.

A little further in the speech from the throne, we can read this, which is a good example of the logic of our Conservative friends, I quote:

My government plans to recommend to you a number of measures that will constitute further steps in working out the purposes of confederation and identifying more clearly the Canadian nationality in various aspects of public and business affairs. With this purpose in mind, you will be asked to give effect, with modifications, to the recommendations of the royal commission on publications.

Mr. Tremblay: He is the joker of the opposition.

Mr. Ricard: He is the joker of the opposition.

An hon. Member: You do not understand anything.

Mr. Denis: It is as if somebody said: My daughter is deaf and dumb, I will have her eyes examined.

Mr. Tremblay: Have his head examined.

Mr. Denis: Speeches from the Conservative benches have a hollow sound.

With respect to winter works, the Associate Minister of National Defence said that Mr. Lesage was in favour of them since he contributes on a 40 per cent basis. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that if the winter works program was successful to a certain extent in the province of Quebec, it is entirely due to Mr. Lesage.

Mr. Duplessis, the close friend of Conservative members from Quebec, who disown him today because it is not suitable any more—

Mr. Valade: Tell us about the joint programs.

Mr. Denis:—supplied nothing. Yet, Mr. Duplessis was the unemployed's great friend. But Mr. Lesage supplies 40 per cent. He even offered this government to share the material costs. Under the Duplessis administration, the friends of our Quebec Conservatives, only 169 municipalities out of 1,540, I think, took advantage of the winter works program. But, thanks to Mr. Lesage, 875 municipalities in Quebec, that is a large number of municipalities than in all the rest of Canada in 1958-59, are now benefiting from that program.

An hon. Member: Tell us about hospitalization insurance and its complete failure in the province of Quebec.

Mr. Denis: Hospitalization insurance enables citizens in the province of Quebec to get benefits derived from taxes levied to that end, whereas, under Mr. Duplessis and his