

by R. B. Cameron did when he first began to rehabilitate this Crown corporation. It is designed to improve the basic operations, reduce its operational costs and improve its productivity.

It is disgraceful every time Massey-Ferguson hiccups or Chrysler needs help that something is done. Now we hear about the White Equipment company, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) is most sympathetic; he is looking into it. But the "coal dust twins", the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan), had over ten years in office to do something about Sysco. At one time they talked about the Gabarouse project. They were going to build a whole new steel plant down there, a Greenfields project. In steel industry argot, they "ate off that" for a long time. I remember the then hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys, now Senator Muir, questioning the Deputy Prime Minister about it. It is almost criminal negligence that they have to reinvent the wheel after all this time and still there is nothing done. Despite that, thanks to the improved management and certain other factors—I like to think partly because of the aid they received last year to some extent—Sysco is making progress.

Now, what about Devco? It is a corporation which needs a little shaking up. It is not a bad corporation, but it has been a retreat operation for far too long. It is time that Devco began to fill its primary function—that is, to mine coal more efficiently—and concentrate less on collateral activities. One trivial example is the Holiday Inn down there. The building is owned by Devco. That inn could be expanded, I know it could. There could be more employment, more jobs, but they are not interested in it. Also, recently they hired a professor from York University to do corporate planning. Is there no one in Cape Breton who can do that?

I say the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion should look at Devco because it is something which can be used much more effectively than it is being used now to create the kind of economic assistance which is so appropriate in that part of Canada passed by temporarily by economic events and which has been so slow in recovering partly because the government has not taken any imaginative or meaningful steps to let it do what it does best.

The imprimatur of this budget must begin and end with the Prime Minister. He is the man who sets the priorities, and the Deputy Prime Minister helps. The attitude which has been created in the country puzzles me. I am not a student of political science, I do not have any great parliamentary or historical expertise, but I wondered why the Prime Minister in many cases seemed to take such a personal acerbic approach. Anyone who does not agree with him somehow is alienated—they are not Canadian or they are somehow against the national interest. That may not be true, but it is the way I perceive it. I wondered why. Then I began to remember some of the terrible things he said about the party he now leads. I do not know whether or not that gives one any insight into the attitude which seems to be causing trouble all over the country.

The Budget—Mr. MacKay

I have looked at some of his writings. I looked at sort of an anthology, it is interesting reading. It was published when he was minister of justice. It is entitled: "Federalism and the French Canadians". It is an interesting book, but I do not have time to read a lot of it into the record. One thing which has troubled me and many politicians in the country is polarization in Canada; far better that the Liberal party had some members in Alberta, far better that the Conservative party had some members in Quebec. However, the NDP do not have a hope of getting members anywhere. They will be like the Creditistes after the next election; they will be gone.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: I will tell the House why they will be gone. Look at this country from coast to coast—

Mr. Waddell: Tell us what great things you did for the maritimes.

Mr. MacKay: The member talks about the great things we did for the maritimes. For years the Conservative party was the poor man's socialist in Nova Scotia when Bob Stanfield was premier.

In his book the present Prime Minister talked about the history of the Liberal party in Quebec. This article was entitled: "Some Obstacles to Democracy in Quebec". Page 119 reads in part as follows:

But power entails responsibilities; and there is no doubt that the Liberals tragically failed to shoulder theirs. A party cannot have the approval of a majority of the electorate for well over half a century without accepting much of the blame for that electorate's political immaturity. If French Canadians even today have learnt so little about democracy, if they twist its rules so shockingly, if they are constantly tempted by authoritarianism, it is to a large degree because the Liberal party has been miserably remiss in its simple political duty. Instead of educating the French-speaking electorate to believe in democracy, the Liberals seem content to cultivate the ignorance and prejudice of the electorate.

I think that is shocking. I do not agree with it, but that is what he wrote. The book continues:

But the fact remains that throughout most of its existence the federal Liberal party was overwhelmingly an English-speaking party. And that majority in my view should bear the blame for serious faults of omission with respect to the backwardness of democracy in Quebec... the shameful incompetence of the average Liberal MP from Quebec was a welcome asset to a government that needed little more than a herd of—

I do not understand this, I cannot translate this word.

—ânes savants to file in when the division bell rang. The party strategists had but to find an acceptable stable master—

And he called them "donkeys". If he would say that about the party he now leads, then it is more clear to me now why he takes that attitude toward some provincial governments which disagree with him.

My time is about up, but I should like to refer briefly to the constitutional debate which will be coming back into the House. I would like to emphasize that I hope the quality of the debate, which has been very high, will be allowed to continue in the House of Commons. I came across a piece of literature the other day by a writer, James Russell Lowell, which I hope