

*The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

1973 Her Majesty the Queen and her husband Prince Philip will come twice to Canada. I take this opportunity to say that following requests from the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visit those provinces on the occasion of the RCMP centennial, it is my pleasure to announce that Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh agreed to visit Regina and another city in Alberta which has not yet been chosen but which is intimately connected with the RCMP's past. They will do so during the first week of July 1973.

• (1700)

[English]

**Mr. Hees:** How was it in Damascus?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I have a lot more to say, Mr. Speaker, but I need some water.

**An hon. Member:** Put some octane in it.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** It is not heavy water.

**Mr. Hees:** Come on, get the wheels rolling again.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker,—

**Mr. Hees:** Here it comes.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —if the member for Prince Edward-Hastings does not behave a bit better than that, I will not let him have his photograph taken with me the next time I go there.

Mr. Speaker, the last subject that I said I wanted to include in the reasons for deciding to stay on in the form of government concern the whole subject of national unity. I must confess, probably to the delight of some members opposite, that I think it is clear that I was optimistic and probably a bit naïve to use, during the last campaign, the theme, "The Land is Strong". It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the question of national unity has not been solved in this country. It is obvious that not speaking about it during the campaign, and letting this field be occupied by many people who were not working to make this country any more united,—

**An hon. Member:** Who are they? Name them.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —was a mistaken tactic on my part, whereas in 1968—

**Mr. Stanfield:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I hesitate to interrupt my hon. friend because he did not interrupt me, so I apologize. I was the Leader of the Opposition and I was fairly active in working against my hon. friend. Is he suggesting that I said anything that would militate against national unity? I would just like to be clear on that point.

**An hon. Member:** That is it; you never said a word.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I was not going to—

**An hon. Member:** He was just making smear remarks.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**Mr. Trudeau:** I was not going to name the Leader of the Opposition as having contributed to that thrust of disunity. I think it is fair to say that, as a leader of a party, he has shown responsibility in the area of national unity and that he was one of those who tried to talk his own members into voting, without complete success I would say, for the Official Languages Act. I am sure that he has done his utmost to contribute to national unity in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Since the Leader of the Opposition asks the question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask him one that he might want to answer at some later date or perhaps even now. I was informed that in the last stages of the campaign or thereabouts he accused the former minister of regional economic expansion of being a "Père Noël", I think were his words, because he had been too generous to Quebec. I see that the hon. Leader of the Opposition acknowledges that he did that. Mr. Speaker, this suggestion is not conducive to national unity.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Muir:** You are still as smart as ever.

**An hon. Member:** Turner, you might as well take over.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly accused the hon. gentleman of lavishing funds in the form of a Father Christmas. I think I mentioned the sum that he spent, though I have forgotten what it was.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I remember; you will have the answer now.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I want to make it very clear that I said this in the province of Quebec; I said this in Quebec City.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I say, Sir, that if the Leader of the Opposition is prevented from criticizing a minister such as the present Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) for wasting money on the grounds that by so doing he is anti-Quebec, then we have reached a pretty sorry state.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Why don't you resign? You have discredited yourself as leader.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I suppose we are all sensitive to different things and it is perhaps a fact that I have been overly sensitive to this type of divisiveness. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition is justified in feeling that there was nothing divisive about speaking in that way. It so happens, though, that if we are sensitive to this kind of talk it is because in Quebec no federalist would try to blame the federal government for being too favourable to any one province. The Separatistes speak like that in Quebec—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!