

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

That has been the stand of the Conservative party ever since 1890.

Confederation was achieved by a partnership of English speaking and French speaking men who believed that the destiny of the north half of this continent might be achieved in unity but not through uniformity. We have done well. Changes, however, must be made in the light of changing conditions. I opposed the setting up of the commission on biculturalism. I said it would not work. To this day they have spent \$7½ million and have divided this country as it never has been divided before.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

• (4:00 p.m.)

Mr. Diefenbaker: It would be easy to get votes to support that proposition. I thought it was wrong and my colleagues agreed. We wanted to bring the provinces together in what my friend the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr) calls in his own way a "family gathering". We wanted a meeting for the purpose of restating the goals of Canadian confederation, a gathering designed to correct any injustices that have taken place during the past hundred years, a gathering of Canadians to round out and restate these goals for the second century, not for the purpose of splitting this nation. We were defeated. We sent out invitations but no meeting has been called.

In the light of our experience during the past four and a half years we believe that what we asserted as being necessary in 1963 has been proven so and that it is time now for action rather than this pusillanimous, diplomatic approach that somebody somewhere is looking into this matter who will finally come up with something so that we will be in a position to call together some kind of a meeting.

There is not a word in the speech about crime. I do not intend to fill the record with statements of recent days about the Mafia but there is no doubt that there has been and is today a continuing disregard of the law by persons responsible for this situation. There are people who believe that by simply convening a gathering and endeavouring to bring pressure on the government they can destroy the rule of law. The time has come to do something in connection with the crime explosion.

We were criticized when we suggested a link between arson and bankruptcies. This is

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

now accepted and there are today over 200 investigations taking place. We believe that the crime situation must be faced by this nation; otherwise everything we hold dear will be eroded. I suggest a royal commission to look into the whole picture of crime and its expansion. That commission should report within a period not exceeding six months. The records show there is increasing crime in the United States and the United Kingdom. They are trying to do something. Because of divided jurisdiction within our country this problem is not being faced on a national level.

What about a national transportation policy in order to make available greater facilities and shorter routes? I will go into that in detail on another occasion, but there is nothing in this speech except generalities.

Let me now turn to a matter which was dealt with by the mover of this motion, and that is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. No one in this house is more qualified than the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo. He knows about the problems. What did he warn us of yesterday? He warned us of the danger to Canadian thinking resulting from a mass application of propaganda through the medium of radio and television.

Last night one of the reporters for the C.B.C. told about conditions in North Vietnam, confirming what Mr. Clark, the assistant editor of the *Montreal Star*, had stated. No matter what is done the seeds have been sown by that broadcast and that article in the minds of the Canadian people to the effect that we in Canada are a variety of high class international double-crossers. That is what it amounts to. We are accused of using our neutral position as a member of the international control commission to help the United States. That is a very serious matter and I hope action will be taken to look into it.

To be perfectly frank, is there any hon. member who can deny that more and more the C.B.C. is not giving the people of this nation a reasonably equal presentation of the viewpoints? There is great conflict within the news operations of the C.B.C. There are charges of power grabbing. Serious infighting is taking place in this government organization because of the lack of leadership. In this regard the government is responsible because of its failure to appoint a man in charge and a vice president. Everybody is boss now and those who should be running the organization have abdicated their authority.