

*Canadian Centennial*

One to the east, and one to the west a curious set of twins, the remnant of the brass put out to grass, and the farther they go, it seems, the greener it gets.

Somewhere along the road, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party lost its small 'l' liberalism and ended up as a large "L" Liberal shell with nothing much inside. So, Mr. Speaker,—

**Mr. Byrne:** You haven't done anything.

**Mr. Carter:** You have read all your speech.

**Mr. Best:** I should like to refer to this week's issue of *Weekend* magazine, the issue dated November 30, because it contains some interesting questions, and answers by the hon. member for Algoma East (Mr. Pearson).

**Mr. Dupuis:** Get back to the resolution.

**Mr. Best:** I see that this article has been read by some hon. members opposite, but it provides some interesting quotations on the history of the Liberal party.

**Mr. Winch:** Have you been offered the Nobel prize yet?

**Mr. Best:** Liberalism means, to the hon. member for Algoma East, change, reform, and improvement. These, he says, are the essentials of Liberalism. Again I quote:

I would like to think that over the years the Liberal party with a capital "L" has been the best embodiment of that liberal philosophy with a small "l".

I would submit, Mr. Speaker,—the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) to the contrary,—that something must have gone wrong along the road, and that the party with the small "l" liberalism, in its best sense, is the party that represents progress, future and vision in this country, today sitting on your right hand.

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

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Perhaps the hon. member would permit me to ask him a question—

**Mr. Hees:** Go back to your fish nets. Sit down.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** —I would like to ask him a question since he has taken—

**Mr. Hodgson:** This is his first speech, what is wrong with you? Just cannot take it, eh?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** No, no, but I am just asking if he will permit a question. If the hon. gentleman who is speaking wishes me to sit down I will.

**Mr. Best:** I will certainly permit a question.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think those of us on this side of the house who have listened with interest to the hon. gentleman's speech upon [Mr. Best.]

which I congratulate him—I think he has caught the ear of the house and even my rather deaf ear—but I think most of us would be a great deal more interested in the hon. gentleman's own definition of conservatism than in hearing repeated the excellent definition of liberalism of my colleague from Algoma East.

**Mr. Best:** I will be delighted, Mr. Speaker, to reply to the hon. gentleman's question. The definition of conservatism, as I see it today, is in the actions and programs that this government in the last five months has brought before this house.

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

**Mr. Hees:** You asked for it. You asked for it.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Plus rising unemployment.

**An hon. Member:** That is all you can talk about.

**Mr. Best:** That is a problem, definitely a problem and, as I have said, a legacy which comes from the other side of the house. We believe in a just system of social security, of helping people to help themselves, in the form of tax reductions, particularly for those younger families with children and—as we saw the other evening—the aid of small businessmen, and greater unification of all Canada through the encouragement of economic projects in various distressed areas. All this I call economic reform, which is a great and far change from the colourless and inert policies of the previous administration.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Just the same policies.

**Mr. Best:** And let us look at the side other than the economic standpoint. We are a party of reform because we have, and intend to still further, return to the individual in this country those rights and privileges which have gradually slipped away, and to return to parliament, the elected voice of the people, the rights and privileges which have so largely disappeared in the last few years.

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

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Like the right to have a budget.

**Mr. Best:** I think the hon. gentleman knows quite well what I mean. The record is clear.

**Mr. Byrne:** It is; it is very clear.

**Mr. Best:** There is a matter which is a very great problem, and is indeed most serious. This possibly was discussed too much just a week ago, and it has to do with the situation in the automobile industry. We realize the situation is a rather serious one. The Ford Motor Company which has its general assembly plant in my riding in the town