

The Address—Mr. Pearson

not expanding, where would we be? However, it is expanding less than formerly, relatively speaking. Of course there is more production but the percentage of increase in production is not such as to give satisfaction to any member of the Canadian government. I shall have something to say about that matter.

In its turn the government complains that the situation is largely the fault of the press—and not only of the press but of members of the opposition—because it does not paint the true picture of the government's herculean and triumphant efforts in the field of economics. Here is what the Prime Minister said in Toronto, and these are words which should not be forgotten. On January 13 as reported in the *Globe and Mail* and indeed in other papers, we find the following:

The Prime Minister said the efforts of the government to improve Canada's economic position have been questioned by a servile press.

The Minister of Public Works, who is not in the house at the moment—

An hon. Member: Here he comes.

Mr. Benidickson: He is just coming in again.

Mr. Walker: There is a limit to what I can take; but go ahead.

Mr. Pearson: The minister is rather thin-skinned except when he is dealing it out to others. The Minister of Public Works did not use the word "servile". However, he referred to the bias of the press—the government seems to be peculiarly worried about the bias of the press these days—and says that the bias of the press was due to the fact that it was too Liberal; that the bad reception in the country of the efforts of the minister was due largely also to the fact that the ministers were modest and inarticulate and shrank from proclaiming the achievements of the government. On December 4, in Nova Scotia, the minister said to his colleagues that they should get out and talk; sell their achievements to the Canadian people. Here is what he said as reported in the press:

The Liberals were in power 22 years and it seems that a strong Liberal bias has been built up in most of the press and the broadcasting stations...

Perhaps we Conservatives and cabinet ministers in particular have not talked enough about the successes we have had!

If they talked only about their successes, Mr. Speaker, they would certainly not have much to talk about. Then he went on to say this:

Certainly it is our duty to do so from now on.

The minister's sense of timing was not as exact or as fortunate as it sometimes is

because almost at the same time as he made this statement there appeared in the press another item to the effect that the ministers—and this was said with some satisfaction—have made 300 speeches in the three autumn months. Yet it is said they are not talking enough. They made 300 speeches in three months, and of course they were practically all political speeches. Yet it is said they are not talking enough, that it is a matter of propaganda, they cannot get the message across. Moreover, in the preparation and placement of these 300 speeches, the ministers are assisted by the largest number of personal executive and publicity assistants on the public payroll in our history. The ministers must have read the information in the parliamentary return which was made last session. This showed that on June 1, 1957 there were 39 people in this category of executive assistants, publicity assistants and personal assistants and that on May 1, 1960 there were 73. There have been some notable additions since then.

An hon. Member: No horses.

Mr. Pearson: Horses would have been cheaper than some of these people. In view of the nature of their duties, perhaps horses might have been as useful to the country. Indeed, notwithstanding the Minister of Public Works, so sensitive is this administration to the necessity of publicity and propaganda, to putting campaigning ahead of governmental administration, that one minister returned from a trade mission to Europe—he cut it short—for the purpose of a political mission at home. I should not like to say that without confirming it by the minister's own statement. The Minister of Agriculture, on November 15, as reported in the *Winnipeg Free Press* and other papers, said this. The minister has not denied this statement. He will accept it.

Mr. Fulton: Which other papers?

Mr. Pearson: The article reads:

Agriculture minister Hamilton, at the request of Prime Minister Diefenbaker, cut short his recent visit abroad and cancelled his proposed selling trip to the iron curtain countries so that he could go out on the hustings.

Mr. Fulton: Which other papers?

Mr. Pearson: The article went on to say:

But he cancelled that trip and hurriedly returned home arriving Monday in Ottawa. Tuesday he held a press conference. Asked why he did not go to the iron curtain countries as scheduled, he replied:—

This is a quotation from the minister at the press conference.

"When the Prime Minister came back from Japan and before I left for Rome we had a talk.