

The Address—Mr. Zaplitny

to see that justice is done on the freight rates question. When this matter comes before the house, it will be interesting to see what stand the Minister of Justice will take, since he is now a member of the government. I wonder if he will be as bold in his statements, as sweeping in his denunciations of the actions of the government, as he was in Manitoba. I hope he will not retreat from his position, since it might cause some of us to say some very nasty things about him.

For the remainder of my time, I should like to turn to another subject which is of great importance in connection with national unity, and that is electoral reform. Recently a bill was placed before the house by the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power). I am not going to discuss that bill, Mr. Speaker, but merely refer to it. In his opinion this bill would have the effect of reforming some of the practices that are being carried on during elections. At the outset, without discussing the bill at all, I should like to say I am not convinced we can legislate any political party into honesty. I am not that much of an optimist. The bill may have, however, some effect in bringing out discussion in this house. It is a serious matter that such practices do take place.

I refer now to an article which the hon. member for Quebec South, a former Minister of National Defence in this government, wrote and which appeared in *Maclean's* magazine. I will have time to quote only a few excerpts from this article concerning the practices which have been carried on by his own party. I wish to congratulate the hon. member on his frankness. I believe he has done the people of Canada a public service. The article reads as follows:

There was a time, of course, when votes were literally bought for money in the market place. I well remember an incident, more than forty years ago, when the Liberal buyers set up shop on one side of an actual market and their Tory competitors for votes on the other, while the vendors, the voters, moved from one side to the other, offering their franchises to the highest bidder. It was a tight election and toward the end of the day single votes were going for as high as \$75 and \$80 and one transaction was even recorded for an even \$100. When the exchange, or rather the polling places, closed the winner's majority was two votes.

If the other party had had \$300 more, they might have won the election.

Then the writer goes on to say that such things are not done any more. This was forty years ago, and we have now become smoother operators. Today there are surreptitious deliveries of coal, large orders of groceries, or even electric washing machines made at the right moment. Surely, the people of Canada do not approve such tactics.

[Mr. Zaplitny.]

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): If you continue reading that article, you will see the writer says the people who owned the washing machines came and took them away again.

Mr. Zaplitny: That is right. I was only trying to save time. Bills were sent for those washing machines and they had to be returned. The people of Canada will, no doubt, be astonished to find out that is still going on in this country of ours. Surely we should set higher standards of behaviour when we appeal to the people of Canada.

The people are asking these two simple questions.

First, why does the Liberal party, as revealed by one of its own members, find it necessary to offer cash, groceries or washing machines for votes, if their policy is correct? And second, where are they getting the money from?

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I count it a great privilege to have another opportunity to represent the constituency of Fort William. The people there are intelligent, sensible, honest and progressive, and I still consider it a great honour to represent them.

My first words are those of congratulation of the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I know the mover somewhat intimately, because he is my roommate. He is a faithful, hard worker; there is not a lazy bone in his body, and the government would do well to consider him for advancement. He is not in his seat, so I am free to say this.

Then, there are two other men, neither of whom is in the house tonight—and one of whom will not be here. There are no other two men who stand higher in my respect because of their unselfish service. The first of these is the former member for Carleton; for any man who resigns his seat to let another man come in to take his place is rendering an unselfish service. Indeed, had he not done that, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) might not have been in his seat at the present time.

The other man to whom I pay tribute is an old friend, the hon. member for Neepawa (Mr. Bracken). He, too, did an unselfish thing by stepping down to allow another man to take his place. The House of Commons would be much poorer if he were not here, and I pay tribute to him.