

The Address—Mr. Crouse

difficult for them to work out parallel and even mutually advantageous courses of action if given sufficient time.

I mention these facts because there are, obviously, still some people in Canada who believe that the Prime Minister is the only one capable of dealing with his separatist colleague in Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: I hear some applause from the other side, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Very little.

Mr. Crouse: Because of the sameness of their ideological backgrounds, nothing could be further from the truth. To follow this type of logic can only be compared to the thinking of the passenger on the *Titanic* who moved his deck chair from the lower level to the upper deck for greater safety.

The Prime Minister knows that the present language laws of Quebec are unconstitutional. He also knows that the quickest way to settle the legal status of the legislation is to refer it to the Supreme Court of Canada for a ruling. This action can only be taken by the Prime Minister, and although it may not be politically popular in the province where he said he would live if it separated, it is an action that he should take if he would assume his full and proper responsibilities as Prime Minister of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: In my opinion, if the Prime Minister is not prepared to carry out his duties as they apply to all Canadians, then he should have the common decency to resign his position and let someone take over the office who is willing to govern fairly and equitably Canadians in all parts of this country.

There are a number of sections in the British North America Act which substantiate my statement that the Prime Minister and his government are not facing up to their responsibilities. I shall not quote all the sections, but I read them backward and forward this summer during the recess and found that section 93, for example, is relevant. It reads as follows:

In and for each province the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject and according to the following provisions:—

(1) Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law in the province at the Union—

Subsections (2) and (3) of section 93 spell out clearly that all the powers, privileges and duties conferred by law at the time of Union shall be the same for the Queen's Protestant and Roman Catholic subjects in Quebec. Subsection (4) of section 93 states quite clearly that in case no provincial law which guarantees equal rights is made, then the Parliament of Canada—I repeat, Mr. Speaker, the Parliament of Canada—may make remedial laws for the due execution of section 93.

[Mr. Crouse.]

• (1432)

I ask you, sir, why has this not been done? Why has section 93 of the British North America Act, along with a similar section, section 129, been ignored? We are also ignoring, today, section 133 which guarantees the right to speak English or French in the Parliament of Canada as well as in the legislature of Quebec. Why have we gone beyond this requirement in the British North America Act? The throne speech states that we can expect new measures relating to the constitution. I ask the Prime Minister and any minister in his cabinet, if they do not respect the present laws in the British North America Act, how can we expect them to uphold any new changes that may be made in the constitution?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: I submit that the Prime Minister and his government, by deliberately sidestepping their responsibilities as spelled out in the British North America Act and in the Canadian Bill of Rights as assented to on August 10, 1960, are guilty of carrying out the most massive "con" job on the Canadian people that we have ever witnessed in the history of this country. How many Canadians today can stand and say, in the words as written in the Bill of Rights by that former great prime minister, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker):

I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, not too many in the Liberal caucus today can stand and repeat those words. The members of the government party have been muzzled. They have conformed only too readily to their leader's description, when he wrote in *Cité Libre*, to quote the Prime Minister in an earlier day "the Liberals are a bunch of idiots" and "a spineless herd that run like animals to the trough". That is what the Prime Minister thinks of the Liberal party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: How else can one explain the silence of the Liberals, who are today the governing party in Canada, and their denial to some Canadians of their basic human rights? The Bill of Rights provides, among other things, the right of the individual to equality before the law, the protection of the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of the press. There is more, Mr. Speaker, but I would point out that already some of the guarantees of the Canadian Bill of Rights have been abridged by this government which has failed to carry out its responsibilities.

This failure to govern justly and in accordance with the law has been excused by the Prime Minister and his colleagues as being necessary, for to do otherwise, they say, would affect our national identity and national unity, which they claim is our biggest problem—bigger even than unemployment, inflation, lawlessness, violence, moral decay and the general social