

Speech from the Throne

munity. It has frightened off investment with its so-called tax reform legislation. If that were not enough, it has kept a competition act in the wings that would be the delight of any totalitarian dictator. No businessman in his right mind could anticipate additional risks and investments with a bill like the competition act threatening his very existence.

The government has been very, very liberal in its actions in downgrading our parliamentary institutions, our Queen and anything British in our traditions. It has manufactured a new strata of bureaucratic red tape, with "Trudeaucrats" now numbering close to 300 and with a taxpayer tab in excess of \$3 million annually. It has tried to muzzle Parliament, the Auditor General and anyone else who might try to stand in its way.

It has been Liberal in its abuse. Here is where the Prime Minister has really provided leadership. He started with the press of the nation; but it was not long before Canadians in every walk of life learned he would not discriminate. He has abused the youth, the worker, the business community, Members of Parliament and, now, as his crowning achievement, the Premier of British Columbia. Of course, Premier Bennett should feel flattered, for the Prime Minister has now allowed him to join an exclusive group with the Premiers of Manitoba and Ontario. Yes, the Trudeau government has been very liberal, but in areas where liberalism was neither required nor desired.

Last week in the House the Prime Minister took great pride in passing out insults to the leader of my party. He was especially critical about the degree of his pessimism. What man, with the knowledge gained from watching this Prime Minister and this government perform for four years, could develop anything but depression when considering their future performance. I noted that the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) was the recipient of the same dose of venom. Maybe it was not quite so large a dose, yet it was in direct proportion to the extent of the threat of that party to the government in the coming election.

Let me tell the Prime Minister that the only pessimism and gloom in the mind and heart of the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) relates to the fact that he knows there is still some time to wait before a general election, and that the people of this nation must suffer during those days while this incompetent government is trying to run the country. There will be only sweetness and light after the day the ballots are counted, for once again the people of Canada will have a government with a heart and soul. Canada will have a government with a program, with a direction and with feelings for its fellow men and women.

Mr. Osler: You are right.

Mr. Coates: The hon. gentleman across the way says, I am right. I am sure I am right, because the party in power will be the Progressive Conservative party.

Mr. Osler: Now, you are wrong. Don't bet on being right.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, I would not wish to suggest that the hon. gentleman should not bet on it. I hope he does bet on it. I hope he bets a lot, because not only will he

[Mr. Coates.]

not be back and not receiving his indemnity, but he will have to pay off his election bets.

Mr. Osler: Does the hon. gentleman want to bet? If he does, will he put his money where his mouth is?

Mr. Coates: The hon. member is very affluent, and I would bet with him anytime.

Mr. Osler: The people where I come from have common sense.

Mr. Coates: Well, they didn't show it in 1968.

There was no gloom in Nova Scotia when the Leader of the Opposition was premier of that province. Every year of his leadership was a better year than the one before for the residents of that province. There was enlightened leadership in the province and, for most of those years, enlightened leadership in Ottawa. During those years we had the government of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). That government produced policies, not pious platitudes, that resulted in a better way of life for our people.

An hon. Member: Like more unemployment.

Mr. Coates: Compare that partnership with the Trudeau-Regan axis that has resulted in the illegal collection of taxes, a multi-million dollar deficit and more misery and suffering than has been experienced in Nova Scotia in many a decade.

Let us now examine the attitude of the Leader of the Official Opposition who, after the next election is called, will be prime minister of Canada. Let us look at the words of that hon. gentleman and determine what kind of Canada he can foresee. I am going to read a few words spoken recently by my leader in Hamilton, Ontario. I will let hon. members compare them with the cold, calculating callousness of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). This is how my leader described Canada when speaking in Hamilton:

• (1630)

Let me tell you about the Canada I would like to live in, the Canada I would like my children to inherit and their children after them.

It would be a country in which the accident of birth will not mark a child for life, where the fact of life will be sanctified and celebrated.

It will be a country where every child will bring with him into the world the right to acceptance and love: the right to grow at his own pace; the right and the opportunity to satisfy his curiosity about the things around him, the right to live up to his full capacity for understanding and learning.

It will be a country in which freedom of thought and of movement, of expression and determination will be available to all its citizens.

It will be a country whose people are governed gently and responsively by men and women who truly wish to serve the common good; a country in which to fulfill man's most profound aspirations and to live his finest dreams; a country where men and women can grow old without fear.

Those are not the words of a man who cannot see a bright, new tomorrow. As we approach the start of the general election campaign, we listen to a government that must turn to itself for false praise and undoubtedly the false courage that it needs to face the electorate. The pace