

Speech from the Throne

act was not attacked by the Leader of the Progressive Conservative party. He did not even mention it. Nor was the government attacked by him on the language issue at all. Actually, the Leader of the Official Opposition went so far, and I say this with some amazement, as to make a large portion of his speech in very fine French. That seems very strange to me, because I just read in the *Arnprior* newspapers that the Progressive Conservative party in my constituency considered the issues of the economy and of bilingualism to be the two major issues on which this government was most vulnerable. That party proposed to attack the government on those issues, and to fight the next election on them. What happened? Why was there that change?

In the first place, the Liberal government, under the leadership of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has said that because most Canadians will always speak only one language, it is necessary for them to be able to do business with their government in either of those official languages. In the second place, the Leader of the Official Opposition, who is the Leader of the Progressive Conservative party, stood up and made his speech in French and in English. If press reports are accurate, he has formed a 26-member committee to organize on behalf of his party in the province of Quebec. He has done that because the Leader of the Official Opposition believes that he leads a party that should be taken seriously as a national party bringing forward representatives in all parts of Canada, from one coast to the other. The New Democratic Party of course officially supported the Official Languages Act when it was before the House and I presume they still support it. The Creditistes support that legislation. So, since all four of our political parties support it, I am forced to but one conclusion, namely, that there is a new political party in eastern Ontario. Apparently the letters E.O.P.C. might mean, "Eastern Ontario Progressive Conservatives." Yet, apparently, they do not mean that at all. The letters E.O.P.C. apparently stand for a new and fifth political force in Canada, the party that might be called the "English Only Party of Canada".

Mr. Alexander: The hon. member is trying to be very clever. What is his point?

Mr. McBride: I do not know who their leader is. Obviously, it is not the Leader of the Official Opposition, because he is not anti-French. He is not anti-Quebec. I would dare to say that he seeks to lead a national party, with support all across Canada in every province. He seeks the support of all, whether they speak French or English. He would hardly do as the leader of an "English Only Party of Canada".

Mr. Alexander: What is the point of this?

Mr. McBride: Actually, he speaks French very well.

Mr. Alexander: What is the point?

Mr. McBride: I presume that the Leader of the Opposition wants to convey that any government that that hon. gentleman might form would be able to deal with Canadians in both official languages. So, it would appear that in this country we have the Liberal party, the Progressive Conservative party, the New Democratic Party, the Creditistes and the E.O.P.C. Do those letters stand for the

[Mr. McBride.]

Eastern Ontario Progressive Conservative Party? No, not at all. They stand for the "English Only Party of Canada," whose platform consists primarily of two points, the economy and the Official Languages Act, or bilingualism.

This is a very strange situation and it becomes stranger yet, Mr. Speaker, when one realizes that last Wednesday evening a member of this House went to speak to this party in my constituency. He was the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan).

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McBride: When he spoke there, he encouraged the faithful to pursue their attack on the government on the issues of the economy and bilingualism. He used the most remarkable argument when speaking on the subject of bilingualism. I am almost embarrassed to repeat what he said. He used the "some of my best friends are French" routine. That was rather startling, because he reminded me of people like the Reverend Ian Paisley, who would say that some of his best friends are Catholics, and of George Wallace, who would say that some of his best friends are negroes. Apparently some of the best friends of the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate, according to what he said in the Ottawa Valley, are French. Of course, when he speaks in the House he has a foot in both parties. Officially, he is a member of the official opposition, the party that is neither anti-French nor anti-Quebec and that is led by a man who is widely respected in this House as being fair.

To be perfectly fair, may I quote from an editorial that appeared in one of our local daily newspapers on January 18:

The opposition of Western Conservatives to the Official Languages Act is still recent enough to rankle.

The author was referring to Quebec. I continue:

Moreover, some Conservative politicians, in attacking the Trudeau government, have tried to make it appear that Quebec is getting too large a share of public investment to fight unemployment. These attacks also rankle, for payments to Quebec have merely been proportionate to the rest of the country's.

Such criticism of federal policy has helped give the Conservative party an anti-Quebec image. Mr. Stanfield will need more than an organizing committee, however competent, to overcome it.

So, we come to this basic question: will this new party in eastern Ontario campaign against us on the grounds that the greatest amount of federal funds and assistance of all time have come into the Ottawa valley? That is hardly likely.

Mr. Alexander: Think about B.C.

Mr. McBride: Will they campaign against us because the government took action six months prior to the closing down of the Renfrew aircraft plant and designated Renfrew County? That is hardly likely. Will they campaign against us on the ground that we have had the largest and best trade growth in Canadian history? That is hardly likely. Will they condemn us for increasing veterans' pensions? Not at all. Will they condemn us for increasing old age security benefits? Not at all, no. Apparently the Achilles heel of this government as they see it will be that we have a Prime Minister who is partly of French Canadian descent, that six out of 26, or about one fifth of our cabinet ministers, are French speaking, and that we have