

The Address—Mr. Denis

Mr. Denis: I would only wish that the hon. member for Roberval be appointed chairman of the centennial celebrations. Perhaps that would bring him back to normal and cure him of those whims he has periodically.

Coming back to the speech from the throne, I must say quite frankly that even though they spoke at great length, the mover and seconder of the address did not say much. They were eloquent but unfortunately they did not have much to say since they were speaking of the speech from the throne.

They showered praise on their leader but that was only natural. Indeed, the Prime Minister could not have made a better choice for someone to praise him. They spoke of extraordinary improvements and of the dynamism of the present government. The word apotheosis was used. They called the Prime Minister the father and grandfather of confederation and so forth. However, they forgot to say why they gave him that title.

Mr. Pigeon: What do you think of Mr. Pickersgill's two flags?

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, you have heard the interruptions. Will that be allowed to continue indefinitely in the parliament of Canada?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I would ask all hon. members not to interrupt from their seats. The debate could thus follow its normal course.

Mr. Denis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I doubt if your warning will be enough to put an end to the interruptions. Let us hope that we will have order for a few minutes at least.

The speech from the throne smacks of election; one group is given one thing, another group, something else; grants are given to one, a ferry to another. Definitely, there is an election in the air.

What about the old age pensions? Naturally, the Conservatives were peeved because the Liberals' pension program was much better than theirs. They thought they could go one better. All this strangely recalls Mareaut's book entitled "The Art of Fooling the Voters". It is possible not to do anything for four years and get away with it, as long as, just two months before election time, you increase old age pensions. Mr. Speaker, I ask you, is this the way to run a country?

Mr. Pigeon: It is better than \$6.

Mr. Ricard: How painful this must be to you.

[Mr. Tremblay.]

Mr. Denis: The government has ignored the unemployment situation, it has ignored the common market problem. It has ignored—

Mr. Ricard: We give to the old.

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, I had told you that your warnings would be of little avail.

It is not the first time that we hear the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard) whimpering, he who was opposed to the construction of the trans-Canada highway and who now favours this project, now that the Quebec government has decided to carry out work on this highway, in co-operation with the federal government, and that work will provide more jobs for the people of Quebec than the famous winter works program.

Mr. Pigeon: What about joint projects.

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, you have heard the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon) interrupting me, just like his colleague from St. Hyacinthe-Bagot. And yet, those two were opposed to the construction of the trans-Canada highway. On the other hand, the moment construction was decided and now that it provides work for Canadians in Quebec, one is unhappy because the highway does not go through his home town and the other is angry because it goes through his. You have heard the member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot cry and say: "This cuts through the land of my electors!" And the other one objects because it does not go through his constituency.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Denis: No, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: The smashing team has wrought havoc in the province.

Mr. Denis: You will note, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. members do not seem to have heeded your warnings and I should like you to warn them more explicitly.

Mr. Speaker, a study of the speech from the throne, indicates that a quarter of it concerns the coming of distinguished visitors to Canada. There is a reference to the discovery of Canada, and a review of the world situation. It is said we are in favour of peace and against war but there is nothing to say how we will preserve peace and protect ourselves against war.

The speech also refers to assistance to underdeveloped countries under the Colombo plan, a charitable initiative that the Liberal party inaugurated and that our hon. friends, who are always interrupting, fought tooth and