

The Address—Mr. Caouette

public speech, during the election campaign. What a fine spectacle on the C.B.C. television network. Others used the newspapers, such as Mr. Regenstreif, for instance, who travelled across Canada giving his impressions on the Gallup poll and predicting 150, 160 or 165 seats for the Liberals.

The political organization bought less full-page advertisements but, on the other hand, it employed newspapermen like Messrs. Gingras and Willie Chevalier, of *Le Droit*, of the Hull-Ottawa area, and Messrs. Vincent Prince and Felteau, of *La Presse*. Those people were used for publicity or propaganda purposes on behalf of the Liberal party during the election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I fully agree with the Leader of the Opposition when he exposes the abuses committed by the C.B.C. and by certain newspapers in their publicity on behalf of such or such political group and which then turn around and boast to our citizens that they are impartial as far as political groups in our country and in our province are concerned. The Leader of the Opposition was quite right to censure those people yesterday.

If the C.B.C. lacks responsible people the place should be cleaned out. The C.B.C. has a president by the name of Alphonse Ouimet. He is paid \$40,000 a year plus expenses. If he is unable to administer the C.B.C. in a spirit of fairness to all groups in Canada, then let him be replaced by a more competent man.

Mr. Speaker, abuse has its limits. I think it is time that members of the federal parliament or the people responsible for the C.B.C. take the necessary steps to put an end to this abuse. Even if this crown corporation is autonomous it is still responsible to parliament.

Mr. Speaker, we heard the Prime Minister deal with the non-confidence motion introduced by the Leader of the Opposition and which reads as follows:

That the following words be added to the address:

We respectfully regret that Your Excellency's advisers have omitted to provide for—

And here they said "une majorité". It seems to me that there ought to be someone among the Conservatives who knows how to write French properly. Instead of "majorité" it should be "majoration".

—an immediate increase from \$75 per month to \$100 per month for all recipients under the Old Age Security Act.

The Prime Minister said that this was now impossible for he mentioned that it would cost the federal government \$855,000,000 to set pensions at \$100 a month.

[Mr. Caouette.]

Mr. Speaker, it was really touching to hear the Prime Minister tell us yesterday that Canada cannot provide \$855,000,000 to help our own senior citizens.

I, myself, do not regard this as a motion of non-confidence, but rather as a very timely motion.

During the election campaign and even during the past three years in this house we of the Ralliement Créditiste, have pressed for a \$100 a month pension at age 65 and at age 60 for people in need.

Mr. Speaker, \$100 a month is not too much. We will vote in favour of this amendment, but not because it is moved by the Conservatives. Our vote will not be a vote against the government but a vote in favour of the senior citizens of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: I see that my good friend, the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) approves. It is true that he promised the same thing to the senior citizens of his riding during the last election.

Mr. Speaker, for the same reasons, we shall also vote for the subamendment seeking the lowering of the minimum age for pensions to 65. There again, this is not a vote in favour of socialism; neither will it be in favour or against the government. It is solely in favour of the senior citizens of Canada.

• (12:00 noon)

As for the subamendment, if I may digress for a moment, it was put before us only yesterday and I deeply regret—and I say so immediately to the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Douglas), who came to Quebec not so long ago and told us all the admiration he felt for the French language, for the French Canadian element in Canada,—that he did not choose to put his subamendment in good French to the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Caouette: It seems to me this would have been a good example to set at this time, as evidence that French is considered exactly on the same footing as English in the parliament of the nation.

I congratulate the Conservatives for presenting a French translation of their motion. On the other hand, I am sure that the leader of the New Democratic Party will take this remark in good part. I do not wish to take him to task for this; I am simply stating a fact, and I am sure that it will be taken into consideration by the New Democratic Party in future.