

The Address—Mr. Maltais

Charlotte (Mr. Stuart). The hon. member has lived close to the United States border for many years. For about twenty years he made his living on the water, and for some time past has ably represented his constituency in this house. He has told us on many occasions in private conversation about the wrong that exists in connection with the increase in prices brought about by the tariff. On October 31 he cited many instances where deliberate steals—if I may use that word again—have been made from the Canadian people. I shall mention just one instance which he cited, of a refrigerator selling for \$225 in the United States while the same refrigerator, made by the same manufacturer, sells for \$465 in Canada. There is a glaring instance of robbery by somebody. I believe the government could look after that if they wanted to. As reported on page 601 of *Hansard* of October 31 the hon. member said:

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to make one prediction which will never come true, perhaps, because the suggestions I have made will not get very far.

The hon. member realized that he was a voice crying in the wilderness.

Nevertheless I want to make one prediction. Throw open the gates in this country for three months and the cost of living will drop by many points. We all know that. Again I want to say that this is the Liberal approach to the problem. I only hope that the men here who have listened to my remarks today will just add a little bit to what I have said and see if something cannot be done to put in their place these monopolistic organizations that we have in Canada.

I believe there are approximately 185 Liberal members in the House of Commons. The reduction of the tariff is the Liberal approach, according to the hon. member for Charlotte, and he is asking for help. Since the hon. member made his speech I have not heard one Liberal member speak in favour of it. What are they going to do about it? There is a challenge which should have been taken up many years ago, but these conditions still exist. What are we going to do about it? Is any Liberal member going to support the hon. member for Charlotte? That is a question I should like to see answered by some of the prominent backbenchers on the Liberal side. I should like to see some of them make speeches and support by their votes the good suggestions that have been made by some of their own colleagues and by many of us in the opposition.

(Translation):

Mr. Auguste Maltais (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of prolonging this debate unduly and, in so far as I can confine myself to my notes, my remarks shall be rather brief. May I first of all congratulate

[Mr. Fair.]

late the mover of the address in reply (Mr. Cauchon) and the seconder (Mr. Simmons). For all their tardiness, my congratulations are none the less sincere.

The hon. member for Beauharnois, who received part of his education in the county of Charlevoix, could scarcely fail to rise to the occasion and to do justice to the task entrusted to him. He has certainly not betrayed the confidence placed in him by his fellow citizens.

I have not the pleasure of close acquaintance with the hon. member for Yukon-Mackenzie River. I am sure, however, that when his constituents heard he was to second the address, they were rightfully proud of this honour.

I take this opportunity to mention that last summer the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) paid us the high honour of visiting the constituency of Charlevoix. To the honour attached to the highest office in this country, he enjoys another one, which he prefers, that of being a great Canadian.

In addition, I can hardly omit mentioning, Mr. Speaker, the humble invitation sent to you during that same season, by my compatriots, during your brief stay at Laval university, requesting that you pay them a visit. Charlevoix was indeed happy to greet you and your visit will long be remembered by the people of that old district of the province of Quebec. Remember that we only bade you "Au revoir".

Along with most hon. members, I listened with satisfaction to the speech from the throne. The measures announced, several of which have already been adopted, reflect the constant care and attention the present administration brings to the solution of current problems, domestic as well as international.

Some hon. members even went so far as to say that these measures were so excellent and popular, in spite of what our Conservative friends may think, that an election must be in the offing, as if the Liberal party were incapable of any good legislation except on the eve of an election! There must have been a great many elections in the last twenty-five years since the list of the Liberal party's achievements in that time is very long indeed.

Nevertheless a government's task knows no limits and the situation in which all nations find themselves today makes Canada's role much more difficult and costly to play.

Perhaps it was the timeliness of that complex and uncertain situation that prompted the Progressive Conservative party