

The Address—Mr. Mongrain

been deeply impressed by the Prime Minister, that it came out of this election as enraptured as the rest of the Canadian people and that it expected, right after the opening of parliament, that our extraordinary Prime Minister, with a magic wand, would have created the just society overnight.

We are more realistic than that on the government side. We know that it takes nine months for a child to be born; we know that a tree grows during a given number of years, and that reform of society like the one we want to set up in Canada will take some months at least. Furthermore, those in the opposition who were here under the former government know that there remains more than 47 or 48 bills to be dealt with, or else the opposition would say: Well, you are not going on with the business under way.

Since the opposition is so anxious to see a just society, I hope that it is not going to put a spoke in our wheel. We are going to expedite these 47 bills and tackle the most urgent phases of the reform of our society, in order to create a just society.

Mr. Speaker, the former government has been blamed. Of course, those who are observing the political scene know, because it is as clear as daylight, that we have a new Prime Minister, we have a new government. We have a large number of talented new members. We have a new Liberal party adapted to the 1968 circumstances. If we had to criticize all parties which have formed the government in the last 50 years, we would find many weaknesses. We would find some in the Conservative party but not in the New Democratic party. Of course, we would never find any in the Ralliement Cr ditiste, as they will never come to power. However, I think it would be more intelligent to proceed as the Prime Minister has just said: "Let bygones be bygones" and let us prepare the future. This is what is being done on the government side in a quite serious way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mongrain: While waiting for the applause on the other side, Mr. Speaker, I will take the liberty of making a quite unpretentious suggestion, especially for the information of the hon. members opposite. Instead of grouping the Liberals together on the other side of the house, it would perhaps be advisable to scatter them among the members of the Opposition so that they may inform those who are unaware of what is going on here.

Mr. Speaker, I heard this afternoon the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) but I regret that he is not here. He spoke about the kisses and the eagerness of the Canadian ladies for the right hon. Mr. Trudeau. There were also some references during the election campaign to trudeaumania and to the Trudeau myth.

One did not realize, Mr. Speaker, that the Trudeau myth, or Trudeaumania, that is the cult of the right hon. Prime Minister, is probably something which cannot be explained. It probably cannot be analysed as one would do of a mathematical problem. In my view, Mr. Speaker—and I have seen the phenomenon happen in several places, especially in my own riding—it is the people of Canada who have in a way created it. After ten years of uncertainty—because those who were responsible for the management of the country were in a difficult predicament—the people of Canada did not take any more interest in their government. They seemed to think that nothing ever happened in their country. They did not believe any more that their country was capable of doing great things and suddenly the people of Canada realized that they had discovered a leader, perfectly prepared to fill that role exactly cut out for it, capable of shouldering the terrible responsibilities of our times. The Canadian people was enthralled, from Victoria to St. John; the phenomenon appeared spontaneously and not because the thing had been cooked up or reasoned. That is the way people respond when they discover a providential man. I have seen it in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. I have been in politics for almost 25 years. I have seen enthusiastic crowds of 30,000, 40,000 and 50,000 people and when I prepared the coming of the right honourable Prime Minister in my constituency, the members of the central organization were saying to me: Take all the precautions you can, because you will have trouble holding back the crowd. You will lose control. I said to them: Listen, I have seen some of that before.

● (5:30 p.m.)

Well, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, what happened at the air terminal where I had let in carefully selected people, staid, middle-age people, serious persons, dignitaries from associations of all kinds, from the municipal government or from the school board. As I was walking about and looking at that crowd, I was thinking that there would be no trouble whatsoever, that everything was going to run smoothly, and remain under control. Mr.