

*The Address—Mr. Picard*

institutions have been attacked as being inefficient. How can they be efficient if important matters of policy are declared outside of parliament rather than in parliament and before they have been discussed in parliament? I think it is high time that the general scheme of our defence policy should be voiced in the house, not in vaguely worded statements or uncompromising generalities but the complete details of our defence policies as they concern not the interests of the world at large but above all the interests of Canada. Our first duty is to Canada. Our first duty to the world is to keep Canada free and democratic.

It has been my privilege to come back from abroad after visiting other countries. I visited the Scandinavian countries and Germany, and spent some time in Yugoslavia. There is nothing better than to come back home and realize the value of our institutions. If we want to keep our institutions we have to keep them alive. We have to have respect for our institutions if we want them to live, if we want people to have confidence in them. Members of parliament should not be elected only as official applauders of the leader of the opposition or the prime minister, but as men who can voice their own opinions, who are consulted and who can give their opinions, having in mind of course those they wish to keep in power, in whom they have more confidence. Once this is established, then when important matters arise members who believe in the political theories of a party support the action of the government when it is a matter of government policy.

They do not always like all these policies, but because they would rather have this government than any other group in which they have less confidence they support them. Once this has been done every member is free and has the duty to express his views. I said somewhere else that I thought it was a pity that in our debate on external affairs more people did not take part. The hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) challenged people on this side to speak. The hon. member for Trinity-Conception (Mr. Stick), a respected gentleman with a knowledge of international affairs, rose to the occasion and made a valuable contribution to the debate. On this side of the house he was the only other member besides the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) who took part in the debate. I do not want to bring about a competition between parties as to which can take the longer period of time speaking, but I think it is the duty of every member of the house to voice his opinions. I do not think we are

[Mr. Picard.]

in good standing when we criticize people because they prolong a debate. Some of our friends seem to believe that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) gets up too often. I approve of that. He gets up because he has something to say, and I think no time is lost when somebody expresses an opinion in the house.

Of course I would be the last to say that we should adopt the United States system where they have a Democratic party half of which votes for the government and half against, and a Republican party that does not know whether or not it approves its leadership. I do not want that; but I claim that every member in the house should have the respect of the house, and policies should be announced in the house. I believe there should be greater and greater respect amongst parliamentarians, because if parliamentarians do not respect one another and if the government does not show all respect due to parliamentarians, the people will not respect them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am a partisan. I shall continue to be a partisan of the government, because I believe more in this government than in any other group now before me.

**An hon. Member: Why?**

**Mr. Picard:** To answer that would open a long discussion for which I have no time left now. I should like to answer the hon. member by referring him to my previous speeches explaining my votes and give him a further explanation when the opportunity presents itself in other debates.

There are times in one's life, however, when one has to decide between the ideas that one entertains and those of his party. The party or the government arrives at certain decisions and gives reasons for them. There may be times when you have to stop maintaining your own views and vote in a certain way on a given issue because you believe in the general program and policies of a party. If you vote against the government you may bring into power other people in whom you have no confidence at all. I will admit that at times I will vote for governmental decisions not so much because I like them but because I believe that if I vote against the government I shall vote in favour of another group in whose ideas or in whose men I have less confidence than in those with whom I am associated. That is a rule for all members of parliament.

To revert to our defence policy I think it is of the greatest importance to man the defences of Canada, and to look into our program for NATO and other international