

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, out of courtesy then, and out of deference to the fact that the Government has seen fit to come to the defence of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in order to make sure that he does not have to answer specific questions about medicare, I will defer my question and allow the show to proceed.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, across this land for the past several months, some Liberals have been asking themselves how we could possibly withstand the awesome threat of a rejuvenated Conservative Party led by a dynamic new leader. Well, I have good news for them, Mr. Speaker. We have heard the threat in person this morning and there is really not too much to be worried about. The voice and the smile have changed but it is still the same old Tories with the same old stories.

We have seen the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) revel—I would say wallow—in the pleasure of what he himself has described, as reported by an article in *The Toronto Star*, as the great advantage of being purely destructive. The Canadian people thought that in his first major address to the House of Commons, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition would spend a great deal of his time talking about the problems, the insecurity of the world, the economic and military insecurity, but especially about the solutions that his Party would bring to those problems.

What did we learn this morning which is new? Well, we learned that the Leader of the Opposition is not likely to vote Liberal. We learned that he would very much like to be Prime Minister. We did not learn what he would do if he ever became Prime Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I heard the distinguished Whip of this Party, the Hon. Member for London East (Mr. Turner), say that as a boy he had heard the same speech from R. B. Bennett in 1930.

We do know that the Leader of the Opposition has a great deal of compassion for the poor, the underprivileged and the unemployed. We learned that on October 29 last, to be precise, he had discovered the importance of peace. He even told us, and he quoted himself at some length, that some six months ago he had discovered the importance of trading corporations. So it would be unfair to say that there are not some new discoveries in the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition this morning. It would be fair to say, however, that there are no solutions to any of the problems that he brought forward. I fear that the Leader of the Opposition is justifying that excellent statement made in a Winnipeg newspaper to the effect that the man from Baie Comeau leaves very few footprints on the issues on which he takes a stand.

I think the Leader of the Opposition is falling into the same trap that I think most of the front-benchers on that side have fallen into of thinking that they can sail silently to victory in the dead of night without any navigation lights and without charting any course. I just hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition is a strong swimmer. I must tell him that

even the toothpaste commercials try to sell a product as well as a smile.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Where is the product, Mr. Speaker?

We have heard about that transition team which, since the leadership convention, has been putting together a series of policies to be unleashed in the country. We have heard that the opposition experts and backroom boys have been looking over the appointments list and deciding who would be nominated where and at what salaries. We know they have been consulting the officials of the Government so that, in the event of a takeover, they would be ready to redecorate their offices. However, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is like a poker player who is cashing in his chips before the hand is played. I want to tell him that on this side of the House there are some pretty good poker players and we are not about to leave the table.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1410)

Mr. Trudeau: I heard the story of the parson who was so confident that he mortgaged his house to make a bet in favour of Vancouver in the last Grey Cup game. Before the game he could not talk about his secret for fear of public reprobation. After the game, all he could do was preach for more generous alms for the poor. The Leader of the Opposition is a bit in that position. I was away at the time, but I was told that when he was asked about the Grey Cup game, he even came down on both sides of the fence on that. The expression was that he was pulling for Vancouver but praying for Toronto. I think he has decided that that is the right strategy for his Party. He is unable to pull the policies together; therefore he is resorting to prayer and just hoping that God loves the Irish. All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that he will probably have to wait as long as the Argos waited to soar to victory.

[*Translation*]

Granted, the Leader of the Opposition quoted at length my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Pearson, to explain that in the Opposition one is not obliged to present a full political and legislative program. I may remind him, however, that he was quoting what Mr. Pearson said in 1959, when he became Leader of the Opposition after the leadership Convention but in 1962, as Leader of the Opposition, he had a tremendous program. This morning, the Leader of the Opposition told us he wanted elections right away. That is the precise meaning of the motion presented by the Leader of the Opposition this morning: elections as soon as possible, not three years later like Mr. Pearson. He wants elections right away, and not a word about his program, not a single word! And that is where the difference lies. Mr. Speaker, I think this attitude in a way insults the intelligence of the Canadian people. It assumes that Canadians who have been through difficult times, who have experienced unemployment and financial difficulties, want