

## AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, before the luncheon adjournment I was able to disagree with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) on a certain number of points on which he had disagreed with us. However, I do want to say now that there is one point on which I wish to join him, and that is in his congratulatory comments to the two hon. members who distinguished themselves yesterday when they moved and seconded the resolution adopting His Excellency's address.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Each brought to the task the experience and outlook of his own region of the country. As well, however, they placed those views and points of opinion in the wider perspective of all Canada, a task which is required of each of us in this chamber.

The two hon. members bring to this debate a happy combination of backgrounds. Both took their seats in this House for the first time following the general election of 1968 and so bring a freshness of opinion to this debate. One is from a rural constituency in the Prairies, the other from a large metropolitan community in eastern Canada. One has pursued an agricultural life, the other has engaged in business. One is English-speaking, the mother tongue of the other is French. Between them, they represent and reflect much of what is Canada.

The hon. member for Bourassa (Mr. Trudel) has shown his competence in this House through his active work and contributions to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs and through his membership in the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications. The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) has been a very active member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, a subject with which he acquainted me in delightful fashion when I had the opportunity to visit his farm a year ago.

I listened with interest to the speech earlier this morning of the Leader of the Opposition, and I should like to make a few comments on his participation. First, I most sincerely want to congratulate him on the very statesmanlike attitude which he displayed throughout his European tour this past summer. It was clear from the things he said last July in Europe that the hon. gentleman felt the same pride in Canada and its accomplishments as do all Canadians when they have the opportunity to look back upon their country from abroad.

Indeed, I had assumed, it appears now prematurely, that the hon. gentleman had gained some perspective in his outlook. It was clear, however, from his remarks this morning that all he gained this summer was a good dictionary.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I need another trip.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I think the hon. member might feel that I am unfair. I really tend to forget that the Leader of the Opposition has been involved in politics for so long—I choose the word "involved" deliberately; I would not

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want to use the word "active" because it does not seem quite appropriate—that he can continue to talk in 1970 in Ottawa in the same terms and in the same tone as he employed 10 years ago in Halifax.

I wonder whether he will continue to display this magnificent stolidity throughout the next few years. If so, I am sure that the disappearance of the Progressive Conservative party as a relevant element in Canadian life will then be guaranteed. He may find that his party's platform is replaced by the well-known Dr. Marcuses, because the sum total of his speech this morning and his concluding words were really marcusian in nature: he concluded that the only thing that mattered was to throw out the government.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Pretty smart, I would say.

**Mr. Trudeau:** That shows the readings you have.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Your readings are reflected in your writing.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I think one point is certain, and it is that Canada appears when looked at from abroad—I admit I sometimes have occasion to do this myself—to be not so much a magnificent expanse of geography or a cluster of surging cities; rather it appears as people. Canada is Canadians. The great strength of this country lies in the good nature, the good sense and the goodwill of her men and women. Often, when we see this country from far away, we realize this. We see Canada as others see us.

One of the most touching tributes which was given to our country in this respect was paid by Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, when she told her children that they would like Canadians because they smiled easily. I think that is a beautiful description of Canadians, and I am sure that if her children had been in the gallery this morning they would have smiled very easily.

If Canada's strength is in her people, her vigour is in the future toward which Canadians have turned instinctively for centuries. I personally do not share with any acuteness the sense of regret expressed by some commentators that Canadians pay insufficient heed to their past. The past we must understand and respect, but it is not to be worshipped. It is in the future that we shall find our greatness.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Canada is a young country, and it is in the youth of our country that we seek our future. To the youth the past is of relatively little consequence: their lives are still to be lived.

A poet once wrote that "a land without ruins is a land without memories". Our lack of ruins is in some ways a tribute to our ability in the past to adapt to change.

**An hon. Member:** As long as it is not the Tories.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The challenge today is not simply change; it is more the pace and the scale of that change.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** You are changing our traditions.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I can understand that the hon. member does not like being described as a ruin.