

The Address—Mr. Reynolds

[Translation]

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, as a new member of the House and on behalf of my constituents of Burnaby-Richmond-Delta, I would like to congratulate you for having been re-elected to the Speakership and to congratulate also your Deputy (Mr. McCleave) for having been elected.

[English]

It is a privilege to follow the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy) in this debate. I shall leave my notes aside for a moment because he said something on which I should like to comment. He said he hoped hon. members in this party would be agreeable to changes and amendments which he and his hon. friends propose to bring forward. Well, I hope supporters of the Liberal party will, in turn, be agreeable to some of the things which supporters of the Conservative party will recommend from committees this time. Maybe we shall find more co-operation shown from the other side of the House. I do not believe in one-sided affairs.

Mr. Speaker, my riding borders on the Fraser River to the north, including South Burnaby the Pacific Ocean to the west and looks south, to the United States. With 123,381 eligible voters, it is the largest riding in terms of people in British Columbia. Burnaby-Richmond-Delta not only represents a good cross section of our country, it also is a good example of the true meaning of multiculturalism as it is made up of those of German, Chinese, Japanese and Dutch descent, as well as many other cultural and language groups. Richmond is also the sister city of Pierrefont in the province of Quebec.

On January 8 in the House of Commons, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) accused Progressive Conservatives of capitalizing on an anti-French sentiment during the last election. I submit, on behalf of the people of Burnaby-Richmond-Delta that the right hon. gentleman is making excuses with this kind of statement, making excuses and covering up the real reason his party did so poorly in the election. In my riding the incumbent Liberal member not only lost his seat, he came third in the race. He came third, and it was not because of an anti-French vote as the Prime Minister likes to believe. It was simply a vote against the sad state in which this country has been left by the Liberal government. It was a vote against the lack of leadership which caused this situation. Apparently the Liberal candidate in my riding recognized this because he was quoted as saying on election night that he expected to run again, but with the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Turner) as the leader of his party.

On October 27, 1972, during the election campaign, the Leader of the Conservative party (Mr. Stanfield) told a Kingston, Ontario, audience that the basic issue in the campaign was "the issue of confidence of Canadians in themselves". The issue, he said, is not whether a bigger government can do better things for Canadians, but whether or not we have a government that believes Canadians can do bigger and better things for themselves. That statement is particularly relevant today because we do not have a bigger government, which, because of its size, feels it can do better things for Canadians. What we do have is a government which has been severely reduced in size and is now hanging on to power with its finger-

[Mr. Roy (Laval).]

nails. And, as evidenced by the throne speech, we do not have a government that believes Canadians can do bigger and better things for themselves, because the government that is presently in power, continues to refuse Canadians that opportunity.

Canadians have become aware over the past four and one half years that what this government says and what this government does are usually two very different things. Instead of the just society we were promised in 1968, we have in 1973, high unemployment, a high cost of living, and policies affecting poverty, taxation, manpower training, regional development and agriculture reforms which have discriminated against the unemployed, the working poor and the low-income groups who might have benefitted if government policies and programs had been designed to help, rather than hinder. This Liberal government, in four and one half short years, has destroyed the work ethic in this great country.

• (1650)

We have policies on pollution and environmental control that are ad hoc, incomplete and, seemingly, purposely confused. We have a Local Initiatives Program which has consumed almost \$200 million in grants alone over the last 14 months with marginal, if any, success in providing employment. We have a new winter works program which is costing the taxpayer, the people of Canada, over \$350 million but which was announced too late to be effective in alleviating peak winter unemployment, winter unemployment that affected 615,000 Canadians in December, the largest number for that month in the history of this country. We have a new Unemployment Insurance Plan which has cost the taxpayer approximately \$2 billion since its inception on January 2, 1972.

We have a policy on foreign ownership which is so elusive that it is virtually non-existent. We have a policy on immigration that has caused only chaos. We have a policy on the post office which has reduced the mail service to something of negligible importance. The post office situation is a case in point. Six years ago the Delta to Toronto service cost a mere five cents and the post office delivered overnight. Now, we are lucky if we can have our mail delivered in anywhere from three to five days for the price of an eight cent stamp. Yet the government spent millions of dollars last year to tell Canadians how good the service is.

I received a note today from a Mr. Cranna of Ladner, B.C., who had a letter mailed to him on December 21 and received it on January 10. This letter was mailed in Vancouver addressed to Ladner, a distance of 13 miles and it took 20 days. I have many more letters in my files which illustrate the same lack of postal service in the city of Delta, which includes North Delta. With a population of 25,000, Delta is growing at the rate of 500 a month, yet there is not even a post office in North Delta its most populous area.

And now we have the Speech from the Throne; a Speech from the Throne which gives priority to everything, which promises everything, and yet ensures nothing in the form of concrete proposals. The throne speech promises a compassionate and equitable guaranteed annual income. It promises incentives to work and a