

Speech from the Throne

I have a great admiration for adroitness, providing it is accompanied by truthfulness. I have been watching the Prime Minister in action and have heard him say one thing and then the very opposite. I often think as I watch him in action that he epitomizes the game we used to play as boys called fox and hounds, in which the fox scattered the paper around indiscriminately in order to deceive those who were the hounds, to mislead them. That is what is happening here.

The cabinet has been shuffled around. The Prime Minister took the deck and shuffled it. He added one that added nothing and shuffled the rest. I have played cards from time to time but have never known anyone, however often he shuffled, who could turn four deuces into four aces. I allow my hon. friends opposite to place themselves or their colleagues in the particular categories.

We have today a cabinet that is noted for its absenteeism, not for good reason but just to avoid having to answer questions. However, there is one minister for whom I have a great deal of admiration, and I refer to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand). I knew him before he became a Liberal, at the time he was a labour leader. Today, he is a minister of the Crown. Can you conceive of a minister of the Crown, Mr. Speaker, with hundreds of millions of dollars to expend, being the leader of his party in the province of Quebec, sending out over his own signature requests for Liberal party funds? Here is what his letter said, in part: Funds must be available so that the work of the party, in the next few months, may be adequately financed.

This is a course of action that is dangerous to parliament and is something that cannot be condoned. It must have been approved by the cabinet or it would not have been done, and indicates the degree to which this government by insidious methods will place many companies in the position where they will have to contribute, or at least will find that to contribute will be conducive to receiving contracts. Such a course is inexorable, reprehensible, and cannot be justified in any way.

Since the hon. gentleman who preceded me dealt with the subject, may I too, refer to the Queen. We all know what the government has done with the coat of arms. Only a few ministers have the coat of arms on their letterheads today. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) has part of a flag with a tractor going through it. I do not know whether it is an imported tractor, but it indicates an attitude of mind on the part of all. Although the Prime Minister has not yet removed the coat of arms, others have.

The abolition of the monarchy, may I mention, was in the minds of the Liberal party on December 13, 1968. After all, there was criticism from the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier), who is always going around with a scholastic egotism which I like to watch. He now has control over the CBC. I do not know whether he has control over that other gentleman of the *Cité Libre*, Mr. Gagnon, but I intend to deal with him shortly since his past record qualifies him in every respect for consideration.

Let me quote from *Time* magazine for the date I mentioned in 1968:

Last week, thinking aloud in the Liberal caucus, the P.M. said that the government hopes to "Canadianize" the monarchy by

quietly "depersonalizing" the Queen's role in favour of more emphasis on the constitutional position of the Governor General—by, for example, replacing the name of the Queen with that of the Governor General on all official documents.

It was said that this could not be in their minds. Then, the government came out later on with its organization of the government of Canada, a large volume that comes out each year. I venture the opinion that few of the members supporting the government have ever looked at it, and certainly we followed suit. It is simply a conglomeration of information. In January 1969, the statements in it followed the Provisions of the British North America Act. It stated:

• (1500)

The Executive Government and authority of and over Canada is hereby declared to continue and be vested in the Queen.

That has been erased. It now says that the cabinet is actually in charge of the executive. If you follow it along, you see what has happened. The Governor General cannot do anything except that which his ministers permit him to do. He is the representative of the Queen. He is not the leader of this nation. He is not a head of state. Yet, in 1971 he was in Iran at their twenty five hundredth anniversary. There were three categories of guests invited: royalty, heads of state and representatives of heads of state. The Governor General of Australia was in the third category, but the Governor General of Canada was there as a head of state.

The direction of the movement is obvious, but suddenly the Prime Minister changes his mind. His actions can almost be compared to those of Saul on the way to Damascus. After having criticized the monarchy, both directly and by imputation, the Prime Minister now in 1972 says that he will not abolish the monarchy. He has made a sudden discovery that he cannot do it. The only way in which the Crown can be abolished is by a vote of the House of Commons, the Senate and all the provinces. So, he comes out in his white shining armour and says "I am all for the Queen", and she gets triple mention in the 1972 Speech from the Throne, but there was no mention of her two years ago.

Now, I come to a matter that has been up several times, that is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I have listened to what the Prime Minister said outside the House. I wish he would say some of those things in the House, and then I would operate without anaesthetic. Let him say them, even if he reads them, in the House of Commons. Does he like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

Some hon. Members: Sure.

Mr. Gibson: Oui, pourquoi non?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why not. I will tell you why not. I am glad the hon. member asked. Has he forgotten that in the days of war the Prime Minister rode around the city of Montreal on a motorcycle wearing a Nazi cap?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. member wanted information. I know he does not want it now. The Prime Minister rode around the city wearing a Nazi cap in order to tease the mounted police.