

Speech from the Throne

which is all too often characterized by predictions of disaster, gloom and doom, particularly from the Casandras opposite. It was quite refreshing that at least one member of the House could state that government had done something over the past years to justify his saying something positive and enthusiastic about our performance. I only wish that some of this enthusiasm would rub off on members opposite. It is not a question of being smug but simply of recognizing a few facts. During 100 years, this country has achieved certain accomplishments. Perhaps these can be put into some kind of perspective, rather than members dwelling upon some of our shortcomings.

• (1250)

I was intrigued by the contribution made by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan). I too have read "How Your Tax Dollar Is Spent". I did not find it confusing, but I must admit that, after listening to him telling the House that he had read it, I am prepared to believe that it must have been a confusing document to him. I say that because no member of this House, having read that document, could have come forward with such a jumble of ideas so confusedly presented without giving some credence to the claim that the document itself is confusing. I shall re-read it myself and perhaps I shall become as confused as he; but certainly on first reading it did not seem to me confusing but, rather, quite helpful.

The hon. member for Annapolis Valley started to talk about what he called the "two Midases from Quebec". He was, of course, referring to two ministers, one being the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) and the other the minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand). He went on to say that somehow their budgets had been increased. But why did the hon. member devote such a great portion of his speech to talking about increases in budgets? Was he as concerned about the increase in the budget of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion? No, he simply avoided that. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley could not justify, nor could any other member from the Maritimes justify, coming to this House to complain about the increase in the budget of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. So in that selective way that is the trademark of hon. members opposite, the hon. member dealt with but one budget that he felt he could legitimately make some point about, coming from Annapolis Valley.

Mr. Nowlan: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I do not mind taking innuendo from the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) but I am not going to take it from my hon. friend across the way. My time ran out and I had only started to talk about the estimates. We on this side have been complaining about the policies adopted by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) ever since this Parliament opened, and my hon. friend knows it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nowlan: If the hon. member would only sit in this House more frequently and listen to members of the opposition, he would know that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Peterborough has the floor and he should be allowed to make his speech.

Mr. Faulkner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly did not intend to make any innuendo; I was stating facts. I do not have to resort to innuendo; I need only tell the hon. member what are the facts.

Then the hon. member went on to complain about the expenditures. He may have some legitimate criticisms of the program—I do not dispute that for a moment—but he seemed to think that the bulk of the money was being spent in central Canada and in Quebec in particular. He went on to say that this money was spent not by DREE but rather by the Secretary of State's Department. I do not think the rather lame excuse that the hon. member had only 30 minutes should account for the selective criticism that we have listened to today.

I am not going to get into a defence of the estimates of the Department of the Secretary of State. This will be our pleasure when the estimates of the department come before the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. I only hope that between now and then the hon. member, who was so critical of the increased budgets and so concerned about them, will have more to say than simply that he objects to the increased expenditure on translation facilities.

I must say I find it particularly ironic that the hon. member can stand in his place and profess his complete confidence and faith in the concept of a bilingual country and then come to this House and express his objection to expenditure on translation services. If he has anything more to say about this department I should love to hear him, and I am sure that the minister will also be interested to hear him. However, I suggest that blanket criticism of increased expenditures which, when one gets to the pith and substance of the criticism, is simply a complaint about the increased amount of money spent on translation services, is a rather hollow and, I suggest, inadequate critique. As I say, I hope that between now and the time the estimates go to committee the hon. member will have something more substantive to contribute to the debate.

I was also intrigued about his inside information on the subject of cabinet discussions. He feels that he has some sort of access to those who are making a contribution to cabinet discussions.

Mr. Nowlan: You know who, Hugh.

Mr. Faulkner: I have no idea who. What I do know is that, having looked at the DREE program, I cannot see where central Canada benefits at all. Where does Peterborough or Toronto benefit under DREE? I am not complaining about that because I think DREE reflects the true priorities. It does not reflect any priority in regions in central Canada but rather other priorities that are long overdue. So I suggest that to say that the priorities he referred to emerge from a cabinet that is dominated by ministers from central Canada is palpable nonsense. I suspect it is merely serving as campaign ammunition for