

*Supply—Mr. Dinsdale*

poverty" or things of this kind, persuade them that there is something in the program offered by the government. I am reminded of the words of a wise man who summed it up in this fashion: Some are born great; some have greatness thrust upon them; some achieve greatness, and some hire press agents.

Unfortunately, far too frequently in many walks of life today we depend upon press agents and upon the techniques of the hidden persuader in trying to bring a message to the people, rather than getting down to the grass roots and dealing with the fundamental problems of the people. I think this was demonstrated in the experience of the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon) who recognized that he had been out of touch with the people of Canada, and as a result tendered his resignation from the administration. As that distinguished journalist who writes in the *Toronto Telegram* said, and I refer to Mr. Lubor Zink, "the hon. member for Davenport should have been the Pied Piper to lead the way to other exits of this kind".

Mr. Speaker, there is another aspect of this tendency to transfer bureaucrats and experts to positions of political power which has had a very debilitating influence on the parliament of Canada, and that is that it has tended to destroy the prestige and the influence of parliament. Now the Prime Minister himself is becoming aware of this difficulty. In a speech before the National Press Club just a short time ago, in fact immediately after the election of November 8th, his position is described thus in the headline which is over the by-line of the story written by Mr. George Brimmell:

● (8:00 p.m.)

Inform, don't excite public, P.M. asks press, politicians.

The article goes on to indicate that the Prime Minister suggested there was nothing more important either for politicians or for the news media than to remove by our actions this feeling of cynicism and disillusionment about politics.

I should like to ask, Mr. Speaker, this question: Where does this feeling of cynicism and disillusionment come from if it does not come from the sloganeering and the tactics that have been used by the Liberal administration over the past three years? My colleague from Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) referred this afternoon to the tactics that were used in defeating the Conservative minority government of 1962. Since he

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brought up that subject I have dug into the files and found many, many headlines to the same effect as this one extracted from the *Toronto Daily Star* for September 19, 1962:

Won't ease all-out attack until the P.C.'s fall—Pearson.

So the Prime Minister, now aware of the cynical attacks and sloganeering of his party when it was in opposition, has produced across the nation this situation. If a politician makes a statement, that statement must be reported whether it is accurate or not. One has to go to the editorial page for the explanation. It is something like the problem faced by the press of the United States when McCarthy was on the rampage: McCarthy would make a statement; it was reported in the press, and only those who read the editorial comment would be able to sort out fact from fiction. If there is one reason more than any other why parliament has fallen in prestige and influence, it is because of the bureaucrats in politics who have failed to respond to the wishes of the people and have used parliament as a vehicle for getting their own ideas across, rather than using it as the highest court of public opinion in the nation where hon. members from every part of the country can come and speak on behalf of the needs of their constituents.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, if we wanted to carry this theme a little farther forward we could talk about the same ministers who love to sit behind closed doors in federal-provincial conferences and iron out the difficulties according to their superior knowledge. We could talk about the transfer of power from the floor of the House of Commons to the offices of the bureaucrats, and so forth and so on.

The point I want to make in putting forward these reflections tonight, Mr. Speaker, is that the functions of this parliament will not be carried out with efficiency and effectiveness unless the government is willing to listen and to pay some heed to the many excellent speeches which are made, and the excellent recommendations and ideas which are brought forward in this House of Commons.

In the remaining part of the time available to me I want to deal with one or two specific points in this respect. We all have our own special interests, and I should like first of all to make some brief reference to a statement made last night by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Laing) in