

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He also said:

He knew well how to counterfeit the fox and the lion, which natures, it is necessary for a prince to imitate.

I have many more quotes, but I will use them on another occasion.

This proposition is one that is a negation of parliament. If the Prime Minister would accept the proposition of the leader of the NDP it would all be understandable. If he is defeated within the next two or three months, will somebody acting for the Prime Minister, if any member of the cabinet dares speak, advice that the Prime Minister not then make it possible for the Governor General to call on the Leader of the Opposition? The leader of the NDP put forward a proposition that was thoroughly statesmanlike and constitutional, and the Prime Minister took and threw it overboard when he spoke the other day. What he said was: "I do not care—";

An hon. Member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not know what word he would use.

An hon. Member: A four-letter word.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He said: When I am defeated, if it is on a matter of legislation which I believe is necessary, then we will go to the country.

I want to conclude by a reference to policies. I note that Radisson and Grossilliers now have company. The Prime Minister has suddenly discovered what they found so many years ago—Western Canada. While I do not like to give special attention to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang), he was responsible for one of the finest billboards in Saskatoon.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I cannot put it on *Hansard* but it was a large billboard which showed the Minister of Justice whispering to the Prime Minister these words, "They listen", but beside it there was a sign which read, "Yield".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What did the Minister of Justice whisper to the Prime Minister? Well, two days before in Vancouver an individual was speaking to the Prime Minister in a most disrespectful and improper way. The Prime Minister was shown speaking to him with his hand up to his mouth, very much in the same way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: What did the Minister of Justice whisper? He may have said: Don't use those words you used in Vancouver to that fellow because that is what the farmers feel you think of them. I am speaking of a four-letter word followed by a three-letter word being "you". That must have been what the Minister of Justice whispered to him.

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame.

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, do you think the use of that word is restricted only to the Prime Minister?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I mentioned western Canada and I am going to make two or three suggestions. The Minister of Justice has endeavoured to the best of his ability to do something for western Canada, but what will be done? As I read that throne speech, it reminds me of my boyhood on the Prairies when one would see great castles in the air in the far distance; a mirage. There was not one definite promise. I am telling you that you are not going to fool the farmers with mirages. They have been ignored and forgotten in the past few years. What are some of the things that will have to be done? The western farmer has taken a terrible beating. The situation improved in the last few months because of world conditions, but the western farmer has lost from \$350 million to \$500 million as a result of the policies of this government.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You know, Mr. Speaker, it is music to the gambler's ear to hear the suckers roar.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Lift program was a complete farce. If that program had not been brought in there would have been available to the western farmer at least 100 million more bushels of wheat than they are going to be able to sell. The time has come to put an end to those gentlemen in their ivory towers in Ottawa who tell the farmer what he should do rather than take the advice of the farmer and farm organizations.

I hope I have some support from the Minister of Justice in the following matter. Our province and the province of Manitoba are losing their populations, and they are losing their representation in this House. When I was Prime Minister I think Saskatchewan had 17; we are down to 13 now and in the next redistribution we shall lose another. I think the time has come for an amendment to the British North America Act similar to those amendments which were passed, I think, in 1949 and 1952, to provide that an increase in membership will be provided and furthermore that, regardless of population, our representation shall not go below a set base.

• (1540)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask this House and the government to do that which was done in consequence of the representations made by the late Right Hon. James G. Gardiner, providing for an increase in the membership of the House, if necessary, so as to assure that members from constituencies in Manitoba and Saskatchewan will not represent areas so large as to make it impossible for them to properly carry out their duties.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: In that connection, I must say I was one of those who was opposed to the Victoria Charter. If