

The Address—Mr. Haidasz

criticism. Yet, I very well know that in many minds political criticism is today frequently regarded as an ugly word, conjuring up pictures of insidious radicals and non-conformists. And before we realize it political criticism can become regarded as an un-Canadian activity instead of democracy's greatest safeguard.

Nowhere in the world more ardently than in the Kremlin is the critic considered a conspirator and as one deserving of exile and frequently death. That is why communist Kremlin, believing itself to be infallible, and determined to revolutionize this world into a godless communist society, continues in the minds of free men to be intolerant and intolerable. In the western civilization, the traditional attitude is that criticism is an attempt to test whether what is, might not be better.

Edmund Burke once said that "a nation without means of reform is without means of survival", and I personally believe that no reform can be achieved in a truly free democratic state without honest and vigorous criticism. Therefore, it is my ardent hope that this government will never resent criticism.

The city council and the citizens of Toronto expect great things from this government, and this hope is based upon the election promises of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and upon the very close friendship and co-operation which now exist between the Prime Minister of Canada, the premier of Ontario and the super-mayor of metropolitan Toronto, who sat together in the front row in Massey hall on that memorable day of April 25, 1957, at the opening of the Conservative election campaign.

At last the taxpayers of Toronto, burdened with municipal taxes steadily rising to intolerable levels, will get relief if only these election promises are all kept. Toronto has been expanding so rapidly that the taxes levied on its home-owners have become an unjust burden because they have to pay for municipal services that were basically the responsibility of the provincial and federal governments.

Education, the building of schools, the relief of the indigent and the vast number of unemployed, the building of hospitals, slum clearance, subsidization of low-cost housing, the administration of justice, the building of roadways and freeways and safer railway crossings should be met also by the provincial and federal governments. Furthermore, many responsible Torontonians are alarmed at the nonchalant attitude and delays of certain levels of government in refusing to start financing the projects of the Metropolitan

Toronto Conservation Authority in order to remove the dangers of the Humber and Don river valleys which, during hurricane "Hazel" took the lives of 81 of our citizens.

In this address I consider it a pleasant duty to defend also the interests of the small businessman of whom there are over 2,000 in Trinity and who are hard pressed and heading for bankruptcy owing to the greedy expansion of giant chain stores. The present Prime Minister, in his opening campaign speech in Toronto last April, stated that the Tories will undertake to set up a committee composed of members of the cabinet and representatives of small business associations from all of Canada to take necessary effective action to assist small business, the backbone of our national business. May I remind the Prime Minister that he has done nothing and forecast nothing about this election promise.

I also urge the present government to change the Unemployment Insurance Act to increase benefits from 31 to 52 weeks for the unemployed and also to eliminate waiting periods for payments, as was promised in Toronto and other parts of Canada during his election campaign.

When I voted for the \$9 increase for the senior citizens I did not forget to remind the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Monteith) of the promise of his government to include an escalator clause to protect this \$9 rise against the rising cost of living and to gear it to the national productivity. I reminded him during that debate that the senior citizens, depending solely on the old age pension of \$55, have barely enough for three nutritious meals for 30 days. Where are those poor people who depend solely on the old age pension to get the money for shelter, clothing and other essential hygienic products to lead a decent life? That is why I urge this government to use their influence on Premier Frost to be more just and to be even generous in his province's share to care for those destitute senior citizens.

In my riding of Trinity I have over 1,000 old age pensioners in homes for the aged such as Lambert Lodge and Hilltop Acres. I was horrified last summer when metropolitan Toronto took from those old age pensioners \$5 out of their \$6 increase, which is a very unjust act for I believe that all of us in this House of Commons, when we vote for an increase for these old age pensioners we believe that that increase belongs to them and is not intended to reimburse municipalities for their obligation to our destitute senior citizens.

During my varied experience as a practitioner of medicine among the working class, the poor and the aged in Toronto, and mostly