

great knowledge and love for the Prairies, did not think of a situation later than the one that faced Ulysses. I think of a period before my time, in 1921, when a party much larger than the New Democratic Party was in this House. There were 64 Progressives—64, Mr. Speaker. They were courted by the Liberal party, then as now determined to stay in power whether the people wanted them or not. What happened to the 64? In the next election there were 24, in the next election there was only half that number and so that once great party, an important party of idealism, disappeared, and there was very little left but a cabinet post or two and a few senators. I wonder if I am going to see the day when I will leave my duties in this green chamber, walk across to the red chamber and there see Senator Knowles and Senator Lewis being introduced by Senator Argue to those august gentlemen. For this advice there is no charge, Mr. Speaker.

I am happy to be taking part in the Speech from the Throne today, January 11, and to hear the fine speeches like the one of my good friend the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon) in British Columbia. I call it "the other Victoria" because there is Victoria, Prince Edward Island, my home town, which is somewhat smaller than but just as beautiful as his fine city. I liked his literary style and the statesmanship of his utterances. I was delighted with the maiden speech of our maiden member for Kingston and The Islands (Miss MacDonald). She said things that should be said about people who really concurred in the ideals of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Sir John A. Macdonald was not regarded as one of the greatest orators of our public life. He would rank behind Howe, Laurier and Bourassa. The story is told of one occasion when at a great public meeting he was applauded for the great speech he had delivered. One of the poll chairmen told him that it was the greatest speech he had ever made. He replied, "Do you know why? That glass of water in front of me was straight gin". But the hon. member for Kingston and The Islands had straight water—I ordered it for her. She did not need anything else to deliver a fine and eloquent speech.

I was much impressed and moved by the fine address of my new colleague, the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner). This is the kind of wisdom, the kind of moderation, the kind of concept of the whole country that we need in these days. As I looked at him, I thought of Sir John A. Macdonald and came to the conclusion that we have a modern Cartier among us. I salute him and I predict for him great accomplishment for his province, for our party and, much more important, for our country.

Sometimes hon. members will make a mistake and in this debate refer to the Speech from the Throne. I am going to lapse just for a moment. I was impressed by some discoveries there and some continuing amnesia. I am glad that the west has been rediscovered. It needed to be found again by the people on the Treasury Benches, but I wondered why the Atlantic region still seems not to be visible. There is to be a conference with the four western premiers. Just because we have hardened to a situation where unemployment is chronic, where the cost of living is the highest, where these things become constant over the years, that is no reason some effort could not have been made to redress the imbalances of that part of

#### *The Address—Mr. Macquarrie*

Canada from which the whole country had its origins in the Charlottetown conference. Search as I could, I discovered very little that had a direct bearing upon the economic problems of my province or the other three provinces by the Atlantic.

I did note one item, Mr. Speaker. The government will meet with provincial governments in the five regions of the country to examine the impact of freight rates on economic growth and consumer prices. I can tell them that for one region they might as well save their time and the taxpayers' money. Surely to heaven, we do not need a top level conference to discover that nine freight rate increases in four years would not be a good thing for the economy of the Atlantic region. We have had studies up to our necks. We would like now a little remedial action. That is my suggestion on that matter.

I do not go in for partisanship in this House. I do not know whether that has increased my popularity or not, but I am impressed by the effort made by the present government at conversion. If it comes off, it will make that incident that befell St. Paul a very slight and casual undertaking! I am wondering if in fact we are seeing any repentance or a new form of arrogance.

I am troubled when it is suggested to the people of Canada that they should recant their judgment because they are bidden to do so and that those Canadian people who rejected the government's best thoughts on October 30 should some day in the future go all-out for them when their second best thoughts are put forward. Are the Canadian people to be bidden to give an accolade to this truncated cabinet and to the ministers who obviously could not have been first choice or they would have been put in the cabinet earlier?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Macquarrie:** It comes close to suggesting that the people do not really know what they are doing after all; that if we can dress the thing up some way they will swallow this and come through with what was supposed to happen on October 30 anyway. I would not count on that if I were a member of the government.

We are impressed with some interesting changes, and I heard this suggestion in the speech of the minister who has just left the chamber. I remember that the provinces were likened to the opposition. The provinces and their premiers were terrible. Now we are overwhelmed with dominion-provincial co-operation and consultation. The provinces are almost as popular as the Queen.

• (1640)

**Mr. Muir:** They rediscovered her.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** I followed with close interest the minister's speech. I do not wish to criticize the speech itself, because he obviously is a scholar of great distinction and is clearly used to writing speeches, although I suspect he may be used to writing speeches for members who have unlimited time in the chamber, since he went a good deal beyond his time. I appreciate the generosity of the two whips in donating my time and allowing him to continue. However, I am a man of great generosity and do not complain. My only reaction to the minister's speech was