

the budget; eighth, to increase Canada's prestige abroad. Not one of these promises has been carried out.

Mr. Benidickson: That is the record.

Mr. Pearson: Presumably they are included in the 12. However, we on this side of the house do not lose any of our faith and confidence in our own country and people because of the ineptness and confusion of the government of the day. We Liberals have a deep and abiding faith in our country, confidence in its destiny and hope for its future in a world at peace.

We Canadians have been facing grave problems in recent years and we will continue to do so. We criticize the government for not even being aware of any of these problems. If it is not aware of them, how can it effectively deal with them?

There are deep-seated problems. Only a fool or a blind partisan would deny this and try to give the impression that if it were not for speeches of the opposition or a few press articles, everything would be fine in this country and our people would really appreciate what a good government is doing for them.

Every fair-minded Canadian must admit that there has been economic slowdown; that there has been massive unemployment, tight money, higher prices, huge deficits. I know that these problems are complicated and deep-seated. I know that in some cases they are unique and unprecedented and that there is no single or easy solution for them.

But I also know that hard, fresh thinking is required if we are going to find that solution. What is required is action by government based on wise and planned policies, not on political illusions or outmoded ideas. Above all the people must be given a full and frank assessment of our problems, of our position at home and in the world, and they must be told what is expected of them.

With a sound and steady government—which we do not have now—with farsighted plans and policies, with leadership which puts national interest above party advantage, Canadians can solve their problems today as they have solved them in the past. Challenge, sacrifice and hard effort are all part of the Canadian tradition. Give them a chance and Canadians will, as always, be worthy of that tradition. Canadians will be given a better chance, Mr. Speaker, after the next election. May it come soon.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier), that the following be added to the address:

We respectfully affirm that Your Excellency's advisers, because of their continuing failure to

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bring forward policies to deal with the real problems confronting this country, do not deserve the confidence of the House of Commons.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, between now and six o'clock I have but a very short time to commence my reply to the lengthy speech we have listened to, in which distortion and confusion have played so large a part. I intend to be as gracious as I can, but having listened to the hon. gentleman this afternoon I can only say that those in the Liberal party who have been saying that the greatest weapon we have is the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) have not been speaking without authority.

I have followed the hon. gentleman in the press as he has made his various speeches throughout the country. I recognize some of the words he used today—somewhat diluted in the House of Commons; somewhat more restrained than they have been in the country—and I intend during the time at my disposal to deal with some of those allegations, in particular with the matters he has spoken of this afternoon.

However, I cannot understand the leader of a great party smearing his country as he has done. We can disagree as to economic conditions but when it comes to the type of language used by the hon. gentleman this afternoon, speaking of those great days of the past I cannot understand it. May I quote for his edification—because after all, I sent out for this while he was speaking—words written by one who is recognized as a devotee of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Barkway. He does not like us, but this is what he has to say in the *Waterloo Review* in the summer of 1960 about those of whom the hon. gentleman has spoken so highly—the members of the government of which he was a member. Mr. Barkway says this:

I am one observer who lived through the period in Ottawa and find the memory both poignant and painful.

He was speaking of the period from October 1955 to June 1957. The article continues:

There were times in those 20 months which were shameful. They were always foreboding; a Canadian *Gottterdammerung*, unrealized or misunderstood by its principal actors... By October, 1955, the cabinet was unhappy and rudderless.

You can get some great words from this article I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition. Let me continue:

Its self-preoccupation largely detached it from public sentiment. It was giving first priority to the difficult task of hanging together. In June 1957 at the end of the period covered by Dr. Eayrs' book, it accomplished the task in a manner which few of its ministers had thought conceivable; nine of them mounted a common gallows.