

The Address—Mr. J. B. Hamilton

This is the attitude that was expressed about unemployment. We had it with us all the time and, as a matter of fact, it is the same attitude as that which existed with regard to unemployment right through the spring and summer of 1957. It is as a result of this type of thinking on unemployment that we are faced with the conditions which exist today.

What about development. I said that perhaps this should be called "congratulations day". Maybe we should call it vision day. I wonder just what type of vision the people of Canada expect from their government? Is it the type of vision that they hear about after an administration is out of office? Is it the type of vision that they hear about from a party which has no prospect of getting into office? Is it the type of vision which is to be brought about by some kind of planned socialist economy, or is it the type of vision which has been drawn for us today by the Prime Minister?

I do not think there is any doubt about which type of vision will be preferred by the people of Canada. As a matter of fact they have a very easy chance to look back on the record of the two principal political parties over the last few years. As I said once previously in this house, I think the history of the development of this country can be divided into two periods—the period from 1867 to the end of the first world war, about 53 years, 33 of which were spent under a Conservative administration, and, secondly, from the end of the first world war to date, approximately 38 years, 31 of which had Liberal administrations. In the first period of Canadian development there were tremendous demands for expansion. There was the need for rail transportation, the opening up of new territories, the encouragement of new methods of production, the seeking and finding of new markets for new products. It was no time for a laissez-faire attitude on the part of the government. It fell to the government of that day to support, to inspire and to initiate long-term projects of development and to lay a firm basis for business in its expanding period. I say this to you, sir, that the government of Sir John A. Macdonald never fell down with regard to providing that inspiration and that atmosphere which goes along with progress.

In the second period, what did we see?

An hon. Member: 1930 and 1931.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): We saw a government which was quite satisfied to do nothing in the way of assistance to economic development or investment, a government which failed to provide any initiative for industry. As a result, we have gradually gone down the hill while others took advantage of

[Mr. Hamilton (York West).]

this situation and, as we know today, own many billions of dollars of capital goods in this country. I think the former prime minister said it required something more from governments than just to stand by during these development periods. I am only sorry that his colleagues in the house did not take advantage of his advice. The question of development is fully outlined in the speech from the throne: the railway to the north, the construction of the necessary airways and airports and the construction of the South Saskatchewan river dam. Here again is an indication that the new phase in development is being faced boldly and I am sure the administration will not be found wanting.

Is it important that this is the vision we should grasp? Yes, it is. I have said before that this is the country of the future, the country of the young at heart. It does not matter how old one is. This is the country of the adventurous spirit, the country of all those prepared to work because we will not accomplish anything unless we are prepared to work. I cannot help but recall to mind the Prime Minister's words when he said it is the duty of all of us to see that production increases and costs are kept down in order to ensure that this country can compete on an equal footing all over the world. If we do that, we will have caught the vision. This will provide security for all of us here and boundless opportunities for succeeding generations.

(Translation):

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker—

(Text):

Mr. R. J. McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Halifax.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address you on a question of privilege, if I may. The question of privilege is this. I would like at this time to claim the right to speak because there are two hon. members from the government side who have risen to speak since the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) spoke this afternoon. This is contrary, in my estimation at least, to the practice that has obtained in this house over the years. Having regard to that it would strike me that it is now up to a member of the opposition at this juncture to have the opportunity of making another contribution to the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege I think it should be pointed out that this debate unlike the ordinary debates on a bill or a resolution can only run for