

*The Address—Mr. G. Caouette*

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, despite what my father may have said in his last speech, you will forgive me for not speaking to you in Ukrainian. Unhappily, years have gone by and I have lost practice of this language.

Nevertheless, you will understand how excited I am to take the floor for the first time in this House, knowing the qualities and the competence of all my colleagues. One feels very small and nervous when one has to take the floor.

Mr. Speaker, like those who spoke before me, I wish to take advantage of the first opportunity to congratulate you as well as your deputies. I wish you had been beside me, like at the opening of the session, in order to benefit from your advice about Standing Orders and the procedures of this House. However, I know your fairness and I understand that, even from your chair, you will be able if not to advise me at least to show tolerance towards me and all the new members.

Mr. Speaker, given the very special circumstances which make me sit in this House during the same session and at the same time as my father, I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for me. Without his efforts, both physical and intellectual, I should certainly not be here today to represent the people from Charlevoix. His determination, his work and his earnestness have been and continue to be a source of inspiration for all of us, especially for me. If a politician was able to defend and represent the essence of Canadian unity, I think he is the most outstanding example in Canada and that he still has a lot to teach, especially to the Progressive Conservative members.

I note with pleasure that, according to his habits, he can still criticize his opponents' actions, but unlike the other leaders of opposition parties, I must admit that his criticism is always followed by positive suggestions designed to improve situations. Therefore, I hope, Mr. Speaker, to be in a position to follow his example and that I will be given an opportunity to remain as deeply humane as he was.

Mr. Speaker, what strikes me particularly in the Speech from the Throne is the ease with which the party in office can write something and act in a thoroughly opposite way. Mention is made of equality of opportunities for all Canadians, of social justice. However, if ever one party acted dishonestly during the last election that party was indeed the Liberal party. At the very moment speeches mentioned justice, respect for the individual, respect for the law, mayors in parishes and provincial civil servants were being used to implement campaign patronage.

For instance, in La Malbaie, the social welfare cheques were delivered from door to door, on Sunday night, on the eve of the vote. And in Saint-Féréol, on voting day the mayor was driving the electors in his car, while providing liquor. Of course, I will admit that to vote Liberal, one has to be somewhat intoxicated, but this cannot be called justice.

Mr. Speaker, when people have money, they think they are allowed to do anything. They will even offer \$50 per family to get votes. Then, on the opening of parliament,

[Mr. Firth.]

equality of opportunities is being extolled. Mr. Speaker, I must confess that in the Speech from the Throne I should have like to see the government pledging itself to give up all electoral gangsterism and to promote once for all a sound and honest democracy. But, on the contrary, the election is hardly over that the defeated Liberal candidate travels through the constituency and tells the people, and I quote his words:

If you do not get on our bandwagon, your local initiative project will be rejected, and I will see to it personally.

• (1750)

Mr. Speaker, these things happen in Charlevoix. The guilty ones are the Liberals who are now promising equality for all. I must say that as far as honesty and respect for democracy are concerned, I have seen better.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Speech from the Throne will not be, as usual, a screen of hypocrisy, but the indication of a new government orientation. Whatever is being said by some experts, I think there is always room for rehabilitation as long as the brain is not too badly affected.

Mr. Speaker, on the subject of the Speech from the Throne, I can detect the likelihood of a conference between Quebec and Ottawa as the government wishes to, and I quote:

—increase employment opportunities in Canada.

And the only genuine expert in the matter is in Quebec. I therefore hope that the federal experience will not end up as that of Quebec with "Bob the job".

However, I would like to point out to the government that in a society such as ours, it would be high time for the authorities to refrain from hoodwinking the people and admitting that we have reached cross-roads. Either automation is encouraged and administration is planned so as to enable the individuals to profit by the technique used as a substitute for work through additional social measures, or automation is restricted and the individuals remain enslaved to manual labour.

It is quite well to promise jobs, but it would be proper to recognize the human genius and consider the drastic change due to machinery. It rests with the government to make possible changes, but instead of thinking it delights in the electoral demagoguery of irresponsible promises. They promise an expanding economy, but they deny to the citizens of a whole riding even the right to live. They talk about aid to tourism, while at Pointe-au-Pic, a port in my riding—a natural oasis for tourists—they refuse access to this place to tourists. They spend millions to create parks and they forget to develop natural tourist attractions on the shores of the St. Lawrence.

In order to get votes, at Rivière-du-Loup, they invest—or rather I should say that they sink—\$12 million in a place where sardines are stranded, while on the other shore of the river, the mere fact of improving a wharf would facilitate the development of a sea port to accommodate the biggest ships, as well as smaller ones.

For the past 15 years, they abandon wharfs in Charlevoix. Some are cut in half, others are breaking down at the bottom, under the action of erosion and sink into the river, a situation that has been experienced for the past 15