

*The Budget—Mr. Corbett*

Fundy-Royal is a constituency steeped in tradition, Mr. Speaker. It is a portion of the country that believes in the basic principle of freedom. Its people recognize the sacrifices that Canadians have in the past made for their country materially, psychologically, and physically. We honour and revere the symbol of the sacrifices our forefathers, sisters, brothers and cousins have made on our behalf to preserve the freedom of our nation.

The Crown is a symbol of these sacrifices. The Crown is the symbol of freedom. The Crown was the source, the blood, the cause that inspired free men to lay down their lives so that we may be free. I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, of that old verse, time worn but as meaningful now as it was then:

"It is only an old piece of bunting,  
It is only an old piece of rag,  
But millions have fought for its honour,  
And thousands have died for the flag."

I know that those of us in Fundy-Royal, as well as by far the majority of Canadians, do not want any lessening of the role of the symbol of democratic freedom that has made this country great. Fundy-Royal will not tolerate any infringement upon the sanctity of the role which the Crown and monarchy have in this country. Canadians will not tolerate any infringement upon the role which the Crown and monarchy have in this country.

I see the present government's move in this direction as being most sinister indeed. In the process of the establishment of a totalitarian, one-party government system, the one measure universal and peculiar to all who seek to establish themselves in this fashion is to seek out and destroy the people's rallying point, their inspiration, the symbol of their freedom, the symbol of their future. They strive to seek out and destroy the institution, the heritage, the spirit, and the truth of the people. This is socialist ideology, Mr. Speaker. My socialist neighbours refer to the private sector as some sort of bogeyman. I would remind them that it is due to the perseverance of this group of ambitious and far-sighted individuals in the private sector that the country has given them the opportunity to espouse their rhetorical nonsense. They should be reminded that the public sector and the private sector in this country are comprised first and foremost, of human beings who all breathe and bleed, and who in most cases are Canadian.

The squawks and bleats so often heard from my immediate left are indicative of the disdain, disregard, and contempt in which most of them hold the House in our system of democracy. That, of course, is not surprising, as democracy is hardly their bag or game unless taken in the context of sport, in which case it is fair game, and they would destroy the animal. Any jackass can kick a barn down, but it takes a damn good carpenter to build one. The only time that these dreamers are quiet or still is when one of their own gaggle is spewing some of their ideological twaddle.

It is distressing that frequently the House has difficulty distinguishing between the party presently in power and these social whiners to my left. Although the direction that the government has taken recently with reference to its budget has

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not been inclined away from a more realistic attitude toward a reasonable and sane direction in political philosophy, this is not to be interpreted by the Canadian people as any great permanent change in political direction by the leader of this government whose socialist background—and I am being kind,—is well known to many Canadians, but it is rather a matter of political expediency.

● (1502)

It is obvious that the people of this nation agree that we, as a nation of Canadians, are psychologically and mentally sophisticated enough to cope with and thrive on the free market system and that we do not need, nor indeed want, Big Brother orchestrating and directing our affairs.

I am distressed and concerned, along with my neighbours and constituents in Fundy-Royal, and thousands of my fellow Canadians, when the Prime Minister of this country publicly states, as was reported on the front pages of the Toronto *Star* on November 18, that the media and the opposition are the enemies of the government. This attitude by the Prime Minister is indeed dangerous, and one to which I know the people of the country take great exception. What he has done is attack two foundation stones of our basic freedoms, one being the freedom of the press, and the other being the function, purpose and right of not only Her Majesty's Official Opposition, but indeed the freedom of expression of all citizens of this country.

We know that this is the same Prime Minister who instigated the War Measures Act in 1971. We know that this same Prime Minister has said that the free enterprise system no longer works. We know this same Prime Minister has developed friendly rapport with countries such as Algeria, Red China, and Poland, and we know as well his great love affair with Cuba and its dictator, the notorious communist, Fidel Castro. We know that this same Prime Minister allowed millions of Canadian dollars to be spent in Cuba during 1976-77 when that country was waging a bitter and bloody war in Angola, Africa.

This all points to an extremely ominous direction for this country, and one which I urge the people of this nation to recognize. Too often lethargic peoples awake to the fact that it no longer matters that yesterday they were lethargic. We, as Canadians, are not lethargic, and we must take care and pay particular attention to ensure that we do not awake one morning to find that yesterday we were that way.

The Prime Minister of Canada has conveyed the message to me and all other members on this side of the House that he considers me an enemy. The Prime Minister of Canada holds the most powerful position in the land. This is the Prime Minister who leads the government that has thrown this country of ours into the greatest economic calamity since the great depression, that has nurtured and fostered unemployment to an unprecedented one million work-seekers, that has throttled the dollar to a miserable 85 cents of its counterpart, the United States dollar.

And now, the same Prime Minister, leader of the Liberal party, leader of the country, the head of this government, is