

in such a terribly nice way. I was reminded of Oliver Goldsmith's fine couplet:

Blame where you must, be candid where you can,
And be each critic, the Good-natured Man.

I feel sure some of his misunderstandings have already been cleared up by the remarks of the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Brooks) and by others who have preceded me, particularly the honourable senator from Gormley (Hon. Mr. McCutcheon) and my eloquent deskmate from Carleton (Hon. Mr. O'Leary). I am sure that if logic and eloquence always prevailed in these matters, it would be unnecessary for me to make any further comment; but I have often found in my life that the process of conversion is more often slow than sudden, so I beg leave to do my best to help him. Of course, I shall be traversing ground which has already been covered by many on this side, but my reason for this is that we on this side have found out—perhaps we should have found out earlier—that it is not enough to answer opposition statements once, no matter how fully, but that we must keep on restating what we regard as the truth each and every time it is challenged, and that we must meet their statements with the truth as we see it whenever uttered and as often as uttered. I shall be speaking therefore, in a somewhat different vein from the honourable Leader of the Opposition, and I am afraid in a different vein from that of others in his party who seem to have decided there is no other way to defeat the Government than by discrediting Canada at home and abroad.

I thank him for the latitude his speech allows, and I would assure him and other honourable senators in advance that if I go beyond that latitude I am replying to others, and I am sure the honourable senators who commented will know whom I mean.

I had intended to say a few words about the efforts of the Prime Minister to obtain the best possible terms for Canada in the event that Britain goes into the Common Market. I will just state at this time that I agree with the general proposition put forward, again by my eloquent deskmate from Carleton (Hon. Mr. O'Leary). I think the Prime Minister deserves the praise and thanks of all Canadians for making the strongest possible case at that time for the protection of vital Canadian interests. I know there are those who seem to think that the European Common Market is a great movement for international free trade. I wonder if they do not forget at times the simple fact that while there will be a lowering of trade barriers between six countries, there is going to be,

from all the evidence we can see, the erection of the largest and longest trade barrier in history against all other nations of the world.

May I also say that Arthur Lowe, who attended the conference, stated in the October issue of *Saturday Night*, which is by no means a Conservative organ:

...it may very well be that Diefenbaker has saved the Commonwealth...

And then he adds:

It was Diefenbaker's finest hour.

May I remind honourable senators that that is the second occasion in very recent months on which that accolade has been attributed to our Prime Minister. The other was in connection with that affair which occurred during the Vancouver election campaign. The C.B.C. repeated the accolade, "Diefenbaker's finest hour" in its official documentary summary of the highlights of the election.

The honourable senator from Brantford (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) who opened the debate on the other side at one point in his remarks said—and he made it clear that he was referring to Canada:

We are on the downgrade in regard to our economy, especially in the commercial world.

I beg to disagree with that statement. On the contrary, honourable senators, this Canada of ours is on the upgrade. In fact, it is enjoying one of the greatest economic upsurges in our history. In its present phase, it has been going on for almost two years, and beyond that, with the exception of the usual periodical ups and downs, our economy has been moving ahead for the last five years.

The honourable senator read some quotations to support a different view from mine. Since hearing him, I have looked over the monthly reports of every Canadian bank, and I cannot see that one of them supports the rather gloomy view he expressed here. Typical of what I would regard as informed comment on Canada today is this comment in the current letter of the Bank of Nova Scotia:

...business activity in Canada has improved markedly during the past year and a half.

And again:

...it is clear that in both Canada and the United States, Governments have played a major role in the recent business advance.

In the speech of the honourable gentleman references were made at some length to confidence or lack of confidence in our economy, and it was suggested that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association shared that lack of