

things. I may not be very popular, but I really think we have to stick to the time limit.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent. The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Reilly).

**Mr. Peter Reilly (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honour to address this chamber. I shall be always grateful for it regardless of the length of my political career, which I am sure hon. members opposite will try to shorten as much as possible: that is their job.

It is always entertaining to listen to the minister who just finished speaking and swept out. He was, in an earlier incarnation, as many hon. members know, a broadcaster and his prowess was legendary in that industry.

**An hon. Member:** You are not in television now.

**Mr. Reilly:** I must congratulate the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), Mr. Speaker. In four short days he has managed to bring into total thralldom his brand new shipment of seals.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Reilly:** Many times during his career as a broadcaster it was said of the minister that when he was rushed for time he could memorize a three-minute commercial with no notes at all. I am sure we all believe that, as he has just run off a 30-minute commercial without any reference to notes at all, as far as I could see.

He mentioned the presence on this side of the House of the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer) who resigned from the Liberal cabinet, as most of us know, when his rather simple and decent proposals regarding housing for Canadians went to the bottom of the priority list and were studiously ignored by the Prime Minister's office. I think the minister ought also to have mentioned the hon. member for Verdun (Mr. Mackasey) and the former hon. member for Duvernay, both of whom resigned cabinet posts because of humanitarian concern.

I congratulate the mover (Mr. Blais) and the seconder (Mr. Blaker) of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. For their sake I hope their observations prove more worthy of retrospective scrutiny than the remarks of the mover in the last session of the last parliament, the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher). During the course of his remarks he did me the honour of referring to me when he said, in part, "even the Tories would not accept a man like that around here". He said a lot of other things, too, Mr. Speaker, but I shall not bore the House with them. As it turned out, my party did want me and so did the voters of Ottawa West.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Reilly:** Unhappily for the Liberal party, that is the case with a great many seats formerly occupied by Liberals; they have switched to this side of the House. There are a great many reasons for this change, Mr. Speaker, many reasons why the people of Canada, in every region except Quebec, turned away from the Liberal Party and chose instead the party led by the man I am proud to call my leader. I shall list them, as the government so often puts it, in the fullness of time.

*The Address—Mr. Reilly*

Yesterday the Prime Minister called me a joker.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** "Sinistre farceur".

**Mr. Reilly:** It is true, Mr. Speaker, that I inherited from my parents a lively sense of fun and a keen appreciation of the ridiculous. Those qualities have stood me in good stead upon many occasions when the only logical alternative to laughter was to burst into tears at the sights and sounds that were unfolding before my eyes. Never have they served me better than in this House yesterday afternoon when I sat here for more than two hours and listened to the discursive, disputatious and often didactic diatribe from the Prime Minister of my country.

In a forlorn and shabby attempt to explain to this House and to the people of this country his party's dismal showing on October 30, the Prime Minister established what must surely be a new low in gutter politics. He tried to smear the Progressive Conservative party by blaming its so-called anti-French campaign for his party's defeat. He flailed wildly around him looking for reasons to justify his party's failure, and he even tried at one stage to link the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield)—a man of unquestioned integrity and responsibility—with this anti-French fantasy. The last time I saw this used was in the United States by a man named McCarthy, and I do not mean Eugene.

It was an irresponsible performance. It was irresponsible because it was a smear on all members of this party; it was contemptible because it called into question the good faith of Canadian voters who quite properly turned away from the Prime Minister and his party and, finally, it was irresponsible because it encouraged the very bigotry that I assume all of us wish to stamp out and to avoid.

[*Translation*]

As I said, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's remarks yesterday in the House were just poppycock and nothing else. The problems of bilingualism, national unity had nothing to do with his party's defeat at the polls.

[*English*]

No, Mr. Speaker, it was a good deal more basic than that, and because he cannot bring himself to believe that his marvellous schemes and his multiplicity of rationales were unacceptable to the Canadian people, he hides behind a phony charge of racism by this party. He reminds me of nothing so much as the beleaguered politician who was caught up in a fierce election battle and who found himself facing an opponent about whom it was impossible to say one rotten thing. So, at the biggest public meeting in the campaign, he got up and said this:

Some little known and disturbing facts about my opponent have come to my attention and I feel you should know about them. He subscribes to several all-male societies whose members regularly practise the most flagrant philanthropic activities on young boys from poor families. His sister is a well-known thespian and his aging aunt was forced to withdraw from her church activities because she is a self-confessed octogenarian. Not only that, my opponent has been observed performing the piscatorial act from a boat flying the Canadian flag. He and his wife have lived for more than 20 years in open and notorious monogamy. He has masticated regularly since childhood, often in public.