

The Address—Mr. Riis

It was a real disappointment, Mr. Speaker. That can be added on to months and months of disappointments. I suppose we were hoping for a Government that cared, that had integrity and that would be honest with the people of Canada.

I remember hearing the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) time and time again say that we are going to have to change this system of patronage. In the famous debates of 1984, he went on at some length about patronage. Have things changed? They have changed. They have gotten worse. Now we find that the Prime Minister is appointing well-known, high profile Canadian Tories like Dalton Camp to the Privy Council Office, not a political office but a government office.

Then the Prime Minister said that the kind of pork-barreling to which we have grown accustomed under the Liberals would have to change. We have seen unbelievable levels of pork-barreling in Canada of late. The most obvious example that has received much consideration recently is the intervention on the part of the Prime Minister to move a prison into his own constituency, a constituency in Quebec that has already received tens of millions of dollars worth of federal support. I would ask my friends opposite, particularly those from the regions of Canada, have their constituencies received tens of millions of dollars worth of federal Government support? No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the case, but the Prime Minister's constituency has.

We have seen the arts of patronage and pork-barreling taken to a new level. I remember the Prime Minister of Canada pointing to the former Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, and saying that the kind of political office that he had created by surrounding himself with 60 political hacks would have to change. No longer would that be appropriate under a new Conservative Government. He was right. It was not appropriate. The present Prime Minister has doubled his staff and now has 120 political hacks surrounding him.

When we consider the kinds of changes the new Government has brought in, we find that it has essentially worsened the situation that we came to know under the previous Liberal administration. I as a British Columbian am particularly concerned with the lack of action shown in the Throne Speech.

British Columbians have been hardest hit by an uncaring Government. British Columbians have had their lives set back many, many decades as a result of the programs of the provincial Government. Something happened just the other day, hard on the heels of an already very harmful step taken by the federal Government which, through Bill C-96, significantly cut back on post-secondary education. Millions and millions of dollars that traditionally would have gone to the provinces to help train young people were cut back. Provinces like British Columbia will, in the next five years, have cuts from transfers for post-secondary education in excess of \$60 million.

What was the reaction to that on the part of the Minister responsible for post-secondary education under the Vander Zalm Government in British Columbia? The Minister, Russ

Fraser, said, as reported in the *Vancouver Province* of Sunday, October 5:

Poor people should go to school only if they can afford it—

—Russ Fraser, the minister responsible for post-secondary education, says it may be time people changed their priorities.

"Maybe they should put off their education if they can't afford it,"—

This is from an individual from the Province of British Columbia who has been given responsibility for post-secondary education. He is saying that if one is not from a relatively wealthy family and cannot afford education, then one should forget it for now. This is occurring in one of the richest parts of one of the richest countries in the world. The Minister of post-secondary education is telling us that we are going to have an elitist system and that only people from relatively wealthy families will now be able to benefit from post-secondary educational opportunities.

Mr. Robinson: He's a Tory.

Mr. Riis: He is a Conservative. I would like to tell my friends opposite that if they do not change their minds and start bringing in programs that will help compensate for the regressive legislation in the Province of British Columbia which is being brought in by the Social Credit Government, they ought to heed the advice of one of their former colleagues, Mr. John Reynolds. Mr. John Reynolds sat in this House for some time. He recently ran for the leadership of the Social Credit Party in British Columbia. He was not successful, but he did say that the Prime Minister understands only one thing, polls, and that the federal Government takes 12 per cent from British Columbia and gives only 3 to 4 per cent back in terms of federal procurement. "The Prime Minister said he would change", said Mr. Reynolds, "but he let us down and he ignored British Columbia". He said that nothing has changed from the previous Liberal administration and if the Tories don't change their programs, there will not be a single Tory Member of Parliament elected from the Province of British Columbia.

I think John Reynolds was right. Unless the policies of this Government change in favour of the regions of Canada and in favour of all Canadians, there will be no Conservatives elected from these parts of the country.

Mr. Malone: Reynolds for Leader of the NDP.

Mr. Riis: I hear sniping from the benches opposite. Unfortunately, the Minister who spoke recently has just left. I was going to remind her of the kind of morality that her Government presumably brings to Canada.

• (1640)

Not long ago in a speech in the City of Toronto the Minister was quoted in a major metropolitan newspaper as saying "There's one underlying motive in business shared by all—it's greed". She also said: "There's nothing wrong with that. We support it wherever it happens". That was the then Minister of State for Finance saying that the Conservatives supported