

people for whom I would fight to death if they were to be unfairly treated under some of our programs. However, I know ever since I came to Ottawa and even before, that all the obstacles to the legislation aimed at making this country a little more bearable for the French-speaking people came from the opposite side of this House. I would not say that of everybody and I will not in the case of the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) but I could say it of a group I could very well identify if I absolutely wanted the subject I was referring to earlier to snowball.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Give us names! Look within your own party!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): This was the situation in connection with the Royal Commission on bilingualism and biculturalism. Some members of this party did not ask whether the problems were being settled but rather: "How much does it cost?" This was heard everyday. A member from the official opposition was worried about the cost of bilingualism and biculturalism instead of worrying about the future of the country and the welfare of all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, we will not ask for any favour. We are not asking for any preferential treatment because we are French-speaking. However, we shall not tolerate one instant being treated differently because we are from Quebec, even by the leader of the Quebec wing, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe supported by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey). We will not mind. That our policies be criticized is normal. We shall play the game and this will make for a healthy climate. We have no objection to this. However as regards gerrymandering and intriguing, they will have to do it alone but they will find the war tougher than expected.

If the atmosphere does not clear up, it will be quite simple. That is not the only thing one can do. I understand that parties have a role to play, I accept attacks, but I do not accept the kind of indictment attempted on us during the last election. I do not accept that pernicious and perfidious interpretation of the film, which had only one purpose. The film can be criticized by saying "They eat too much". That was one of the hon. member's criticisms: "They eat a lot". We were eating the same damned ham which is eaten here in the restaurant, Mr. Speaker. What Progressive Conservatives eat every day. That's all we were eating. "It is horrible to see them eating when some lack food", they commented. That is super politics, really super. And that is how they seek to achieve the unity of Canada. The film can be criticized. But I say Mr. Speaker, that if debates are to be normal, that kind of fighting should cease. We are going to do our part let them do theirs and there will be an opportunity to help Canada. Otherwise, if the battle is on another plane, we will fight and fight hard.

Mr. Speaker, I am ready to have a last try. We shall do our conscientious best and I hope that all together we will contribute to the unification of the country.

[English]

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to take part in this debate. My first words will be of congratulation to Your Honour upon

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your elevation to the high office of Speaker of this House. It is a position which I know will be filled with dignity, with honour and with fairness to members in all parties. I also wish to congratulate my hon. friend, the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) upon his appointment to the position of Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole House. His appointment indicates recognition by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of the hon. member's many years of service to this House, and I wish him well in his new office.

• (1240)

I join with others who have preceded me in congratulating the mover and seconder of the address for their contributions to this debate. In view of the time limit, I serve notice now that at the conclusion of my remarks I intend to move in English and in French an amendment to the motion presently before the House. The words of that amendment are as follows:

That the following be added to the Address:

"This House regrets that Your Excellency's advisers by their inertia, indifference and parliamentary incompetence, have chosen not to deal immediately with the problems affecting the Canadian people and particularly the aggravated situation resulting from the current simultaneous high rate of unemployment and rising living costs."

Those of us who were here in the previous parliament cannot help but notice the change in the seating arrangement and in the men who occupy these seats, especially on the government side of the House. We cannot help but notice as well that the air of uncertainty which seemed to hang over the Prime Minister and his colleagues following the events of October 30 pervades this chamber like a Fundy fog. I suppose this is due in part to the verbal whipping given the Prime Minister by the four western provincial Liberal leaders when they met in Regina on December 1, and the lack of discretion which was shown by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) following his organic discussions with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang). Obviously, following the election the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice remembered the words of the late President Kennedy who said in his inaugural address: "Let us never negotiate out of fear but let us never fear to negotiate".

We have now seen the fruits of these negotiations in the votes that have been taken in the House. We may never know all the details of the deal which has been made between the Minister of Justice on behalf of the Liberal party and the hon. member for York South on behalf of the NDP, but obviously a scheme was arranged whereby the present minority Liberal party will be kept in office by the voting strength of the NDP. No matter how much the Leader of the NDP may bluster and apologize, he and his supporters have been exposed as fakes and charlatans when it comes to adhering to stated policy and principles. Their attitude today seems to be: if you do not like our principles, Mr. Prime Minister, we will change them. The election is over and the results are here for all to see in the House of minorities.

Many are the reasons given for this situation, but I was surprised and somewhat appalled by the statements made by the right hon. Prime Minister when he made the charge that members of the Conservative party do not stand for