

The Address—Mr. Girouard

instead of production, they would not go much farther than Keynes and the other neo-economists who have been preaching along that line for some time.

Mr. Speaker, at the last election, the Canadian people have shown that they wanted unemployment to end. Moreover, they want further industrial development and a more significant farm policy. They also hope for an unlimited expansion of our foreign trade, and in this last field I must say a good word for the party in power, because it seems to have made some achievements in the economic field even before it was elected.

Mr. Speaker, our present trade balance with the United States must at last be more favourable, if we are to assess it on the basis of the unusual number of U.S. dollars in circulation in our ridings a few weeks prior to the election.

I should like to remind these prominent economists of the words spoken in 1900 by Mr. Henri Bourassa and I quote:

When it comes to public business, politics government and finance, I do not have much faith in logic.

And he added this:

Good governments clothe the people with a well-fitting gown, suitable for their size, their way of life and their work of the moment.

Therefore, the government must adopt active and efficient policies for the whole country.

The party in power has obtained several mandates, including one concerning biculturalism. I know it is ready to take a step in that direction, but with hundreds of people in Quebec, I would like to repeat to the party in power what they know already, that the province of Quebec does not like quitters. I am ready to go the whole way. Some members on the government side must fight also and, if they were to resign, as did Henri Bourassa in 1900, I would say to them: go ahead, gentlemen, the province will respect you.

As I said the other day, I wonder if the members for Lotbinière, St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville, Drummond-Arthabaska or Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Messrs. Choquette, Dupuis, Pepin, Sauvé) would be ready to make that sacrifice for their fellow citizens of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words now about federal-provincial relations. I know that the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lamontagne) will have a heavy task too. First he will have to clear a reputation he himself built up. He will also have to prepare new

legislation, but above all to try and understand what is now in the constitution, not only in the written act but also in the spirit of the constitution.

Mr. Speaker, we could strive for years in this house to amend the constitution, to obtain further privileges and a recognized equality, but as long as members of the Liberal party will not be convinced that there is in the spirit of the constitution something else than what we have at present, we will get nowhere and commissions of inquiry will bring nothing constructive.

It is all very well to start with inquiries, but what I ask of my hon. friends is to be ready in their minds first of all to give our small French Canadian nation the little it claims in our great country.

At this point of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I should like to point to the house an editorial published in this morning's *Le Devoir*, under the signature of Mr. Claude Ryan.

I shall quote a few excerpts of this article to show you how low one can be when one decides to write intelligent things when one is devoid of intelligence. This article relates to the vote taken Tuesday night on the question of nuclear arms. Speaking of the party in power Mr. Ryan said:

First, we can see to what a lamentable depth a party can sink through servile obedience of its members to the sole decisions of their leader.

In other words, he upbraided the members on the government side of the house for being mere sheep. And he continued:

The aristocratic methods, which still prevail in the most important of our four political parties, create a rather paradoxical situation. One cannot be sure any longer that the views legally expressed in parliament reflect the nation's true feelings.

And Mr. Ryan went on to say:

Do the Liberals in Ottawa—more particularly those from Quebec—fully understand that their spirit of conformity puts the whole nation in an extremely ambiguous position?

Up to now, I am in agreement with Mr. Ryan. Of course, when all the members of a party decide to vote because their leader has chosen that course, they do tend to look like a flock of sheep. But what is rather amazing, is that a few lines further, the same man writes in the same editorial:

Faithful to their promises, the Quebec Creditors voted like good nationalists on this question. Those from the west followed Mr. Thompson.

And this is his conclusion:

This event should not be given more importance than it really has. But it is more and more obvious that this sham party will not be able to resist the ideological disintegration of its elements.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Girouard.]