

The Address—Mr. A. Smith

naturally infer that any concession on their part on the flag issue would be equivalent to yielding before an articulate minority which is bent on sabotaging the feelings of the majority, of deriding the noble British traditions.

No, let us hope—

The article continues:

—that Mr. Diefenbaker will think better of it and that in the interests of the national unity he is talking so much about, he will abandon his plan to use for electoral purposes the alleged statement of Mr. Pearson.

That is the credit to be given the Tories and their leader on the issue of national unity.

There is only one thing we must hope for, namely that the general election will be called as soon as possible so that the mess may be cleared without delay, because the people of this country are anxious for a change, they long for a sound economy in all areas both industrial and agricultural in the best interests of all concerned.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, may I ask whether the member would allow a question now?

An hon. Member: Too late.

Mr. Valade: Would the member allow me to put my question?

Mr. Speaker: I regret, but it is too late now, since the member for Beauce (Mr. Racine) has resumed his seat.

(Text):

Mr. Arthur Smith (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, may I join with my colleagues in congratulating both the mover and the seconder of this address for their speeches and contributions in this house. This, of course, is not done in any perfunctory way for, as has been said before, they both made very able contributions and can certainly see the reason for their particular choice by the Prime Minister in giving them and their constituencies this important honour. May I also congratulate you, sir, upon your elevation to this important office, and also your colleague the new Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Flynn), and all those who have received appointment as parliamentary secretaries.

I should like to deal with a variety of subjects in the time allotted to me, and at the same time refer to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition in so far as his remarks concerned the question of Canada's prestige abroad. Hon. members will recall that the Leader of the Opposition cluttered up the record of *Hansard* with opinions of other people. It would be interesting if there were a law of plagiarism in this country, because if there were such a law undoubtedly the Leader of the Opposition would have been speechless, as he had very few opinions of

his own. Fortunately, however, there is no such law. I say "fortunately" because I intend to refer to some quotations by people who hold somewhat different views than the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Hellyer: If there were such a law your speech would be concluded before it had begun.

Mr. Smith (Calgary South): We will hear from the kindergarten of the Liberal party later. I should like to deal with other matters because I think it is important at this time, which may well be the last opportunity for any hon. member, including the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer), to make himself heard. Therefore I intend to deal with these items simply and clearly so that even he may understand them.

First may I deal with a question of Canada's prestige abroad. One finds it difficult to understand how such a distinguished parliamentarian as the Leader of the Opposition, who has depended so much for his reputation in the field of diplomacy on the need for the co-operation of others, can now attempt to destroy the reputation of this country abroad. There may be no purpose for following a completely bipartisan policy on external affairs; that is, there is no such need if the principles involved are of such a divergent nature that the parties of this house cannot agree with them. But I suggest that before we decide to expose these differences to the world we had better substantiate by chapter and verse what these differences are, rather than taking the course followed by the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues in trying to speak out of both sides of their mouths at the same time.

The Leader of the Opposition described the prestige of this country as declining. The only examples he could cite were certain editorial opinions from various foreign editors whose ego was offended by certain action Canada has taken, and which does not conform with their respective opinions. That is to say, it was in the best interests of these editorial writers to take a particular course, motivated by factors with which we could not and would not be expected to agree. I suggest that each of us should remind ourselves that we are not in this house as members of the United Kingdom parliament or the United States congress, but we are here as Canadians, responsible to the people of Canada, and this is where our first interest must lie.

The Leader of the Opposition took it upon himself, as perhaps the only vestige of evidence, to suggest that our prestige abroad had suffered by the representations made by members of the cabinet in their discussions with the United Kingdom in connection with the