

French newspaper, but to help my hon. friend I will translate what it said. This was *Le Droit* of Ottawa, Wednesday, February 5, 1947, and this is the headline: "Flag—" my hon. friend, coming from British Columbia! will understand that—"Flag Without Union Jack. The Country is Heading Towards a General Election." Then it went on, at page 11—my hon. friend has the reference—"That is why the Prime Minister is thinking of having recourse to his tactics of a sudden election to obtain a more stable majority in parliament."

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Sudden or delayed, you will never come back.

An hon. MEMBER: That is a bed-time story.

Mr. HEON: I understand that my hon. friend wants to go to sleep now.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Take it and like it.

Mr. HEON: This article—and my hon. friends on the right will like this—is possibly unfair to the Prime Minister, and possibly it is untrue in its conclusions on what was, after all, a more or less harmonious party caucus. But the C.B.C. and affiliated stations and most newspapers carried this interpretation across Canada. The impression has been given, rightly or wrongly—personally I think it is wrong—that a general election is in the offing if—there is always a big "if"—a substantial majority is not accorded the administration; if the amendment of the leader of the opposition is carried, or if the tempers of the cabinet members become so frayed and irritated in the face of opposition criticism that they may decide upon a general election. I wish to make my position perfectly clear, and that will please members to the right of the Speaker, though I am not out to please them. I want to say this. The present administration went before the country on June 11, 1945, seeking a mandate to build a new social order, to protect social and economic gains, and, as they said, to finish the job together. This being so, Canadians in great numbers approved by their "X's", and my hon. friend will recognize an "X".

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: The Gallup poll shows we are leading.

Mr. HEON: Canadians approved the proposed legislative trends set forth by the outgoing Liberal administration; and the final result, although not giving the administration a clear majority, since more Canadians voted for the various other political parties than for

the administration, gave the present administration a mandate. Clearly the duty of the present administration is to accomplish this mandate, unless it is prepared to state officially that it cannot fulfil its numerous and most generous promises. Eighteen months have elapsed since the present administration came into power. It is a crude fact, an admitted fact, that the administration has not yet accomplished all that it promised. Would a general election solve the problem?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: The electorate will give us a bigger majority.

Mr. HEON: My hon. friend is thinking in terms of votes and I am thinking in terms of Canada. That is the difference. I say this in all seriousness and I want to make my stand perfectly clear. A general election at this time would only add to the confusion already existing in industrial, agricultural and labour circles. The administration's job is not to render the economy of the country less stable; it is to render it more stable. It is its job, as it is the job of all of us, to render Canada's economy more stable. A general election at this time, Mr. Speaker, in my very humble opinion would amount to a catastrophe. Personally, and mind you I am speaking only for myself, I have taken great pains to consult all classes of the electorate in my own constituency, both Liberal and anti-Liberal, before making this statement. I shall not cast in this house any vote which will favour an early election. I hope that is clear enough. The general sentiment among my constituents seems to be: "Let the administration fulfil their promises; if they do not, we shall throw them out in good time." May I add this: The political temper of the average Canadian at this time is not one that should be fooled with, and woe to the political party which does so. Our countrymen want us to do things and accomplish results. Is there any hon. member, who, having been elected on June 11, 1945, is prepared to go back to the country tomorrow? Is there any political party which is prepared to go back before the country and say, "I am sorry; you gave us a mandate to do certain things, but we have not had the courage to do them. If you re-elect us, we will try"? The whole thing is silly. It applies to all Canadians of all parties.

My Liberal friends—and I have very many of them—last year sent me as a Christmas present, if hon. members to the right can imagine it, a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Programme for Canada". I quite frankly