

The Address—Mr. Pearson

Mr. Jones: They had the same thing in Britain in 1917.

Mr. Pearson: No wonder the *Edmonton Journal*, a paper friendly to the government, found it necessary to write on January 10, 1962:

The consensus from other sources is that Canada's influence in international affairs is at a low ebb now.

Mr. Green: You are smearing Canada now.

Mr. Pearson: Why did the government not do something about the situation so that friendly editors would not write such criticism?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: Why should the editor of the *Calgary Herald*, which I understand is a paper constantly friendly to the government write on October 28, 1961 as follows:

The present government has seriously mismanaged our monetary and economic affairs, and has also done harm to our country's reputation which it will take years to repair.

I find it painful to say these things, if only for the reason that I have so many good friends within the Conservative party, but it seems to me that somebody had better start saying them.

If this government had done as much for Canada as they claim, why should the former chief of the general staff, now the president of the Toronto stock exchange, say to the Empire club in Toronto on January 11, 1962, after three months in Europe:

The British were sharply critical of Canada's opposition to the U.K.'s proposed entry into the tariff-cutting common market...

The open dispute between former Bank of Canada governor James Coyne and finance minister Donald Fleming caused Europeans to feel Canadians must be an immature and juvenile people.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are not immature, but the government is.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I do not think he was giving his own opinion.

Mr. Pearson: As a people we are not immature and it is time to remove that impression by mature and efficient administration of our affairs. Let us correct these false impressions which make the members of the government so angry when they are repeated.

An hon. Member: You are the only one who is angry.

Mr. Pearson: That correction will not be made by this government. Nearly five years of inept and confused administration, with more emphasis on travel and talk than on thought and action, have shown that there is little hope for this.

[Mr. Pearson.]

As the London *Economist* put it on November 25, in an edition which referred to the "years of disillusionment since 1957":

His—

They were referring to the Minister of Finance:

—colleagues, even his Prime Minister, are so busy finding ingenious ways to conceal reality that even the Canadian public is utterly confused.

I do not know whether or not the Canadian public is confused, but the Canadian public is certainly disenchanted and disillusioned with the present government.

Look at the record of the past year: the Coyne affair; the policy regarding the United Kingdom and the European common market; nuclear confusion and indecision; continued heavy unemployment; the Columbia river treaty mess; the Quebec hospital scandals; the assault on the Senate.

We are told that everything is fine now. We are told that the government has carried out 50 of its 62 promises.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: Three quarters of the egg is good.

Mr. Nowlan: Who is your speech writer?

Mr. Pearson: With regard to these promises, the numbers game is of course an amusing diversion. I should like to inform my friend the hon. member for Bonaville-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) that we are all trying to help him—

An hon. Member: He needs it.

Mr. Pearson: —and there was another promise made last Saturday afternoon, to the effect that the national press club might be called "royal". However, these interesting and amusing diversions—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Do you disapprove of that?

Mr. Pearson: I do not think this is a matter of such great importance that it is necessary for me at this time to express my view one way or the other. This numbers game is an amusing diversion, but the promises that really matter and which the Canadian public will not forget are these basic, fundamental promises. First, to give good, steady and efficient administration of the nation's business; second, to ensure that no Canadian would suffer from unemployment; third, to put and keep our economic and financial affairs in good order; fourth, to reduce taxes and interest rates; fifth, to reduce government spending; sixth, to eliminate waste and extravagance in government; seventh, to balance