

The Address—Mr. Mutch

moved, either by praise or by blame. Perhaps in fairness to myself and others who hold similar views I should say that I have stayed in this house for quite a while, without too much to recommend me except a capacity for doing my own thinking and a willingness to express my views frankly.

I can quite understand that my hon. friend, and the member who interjected when he spoke, might wonder why I am taking a line of action which might be at variance with that of some of my colleagues in the Liberal party. I should like to say that I am under no illusions that some of the views which I hold, and sometimes express, would get support from my own party. Freedom of speech, however, and freedom of thought are still a reality in the party to which I give my allegiance. The party to which my hon. friend belongs is a party in which a member either conforms or walks the plank, as two of the members in the province of Manitoba have recently had to do. I am pleased to say that in this party it is still possible to express views based on honest convictions, although they may not necessarily be shared by all those within the party. As a matter of fact the party line, as expressed by the Liberal party in my time here, has not been so much a designated party line, but a considered opinion which comes from the meeting of many minds. This method of devising policy has worked quite successfully in this country.

A moment ago I said that my hon. friend has seen fit to sneer at the fact that some remarks quoted from my speech in Toronto had been cited with approval by an organ of the chamber of commerce. I have no objection to my hon. friend taking a dim view of my opinion. Frankly, I believe the chamber of commerce is adequately equipped to take care of itself; but in passing, I think it would be fair to say this: While I do not pay too much attention to either praise or blame, so long as I am able to express those views which I honestly hold, I believe I would feel much better about approval expressed by some of the men who are associated with that organization than I would about the expressed approval of my hon. friend, or those with whom he is associated. I appreciate the fact that he expresses the party line on those matters. Within the chamber of commerce, however, there are men who have helped to keep this country a healthy and prosperous place. It is a strong and virile organization. These men have made our country strong enough that the political termites can fuss and fret without tearing down our economy, with the consequent disastrous results which that might have.

Mr. Knowles: Is that the description you apply to the people of Winnipeg South who want social security?

Mr. Mutch: No, I do not apply it to anybody. I use it because I think it is an inoffensive way of describing those people who, by their attacks, seek to tear down a thing which they are wholly incapable of replacing if they should succeed.

In my view, it is seldom that anyone loses friends or loses face by being honest and outspoken. It is when anyone tries to talk with many tongues, and look in two or three directions at once, that the public catches up with him. I am flattered, you know, that a speech made outside this house to a group of businessmen should have attracted the attention of my hon. friend. I am not unaware of the reason for his interest. He may have felt that, by expressing an honest view to an audience of people who might be expected to have some interest in that point of view, I might have said something which would be politically disadvantageous to myself. I believe that was the inspiration for his attack. Speaking as one politician to another, I see nothing wrong with one seeking to find, from the spoken word of another, something which might at a later date be disadvantageous to him. If that was the desire, then I am afraid my hon. friend has only succeeded in giving me a little unsolicited publicity without achieving what he desired.

Mr. Knowles: The hon. member is achieving that purpose much better himself.

Mr. Mutch: I shall have to stand on my record in that respect. I was here first, and I fancy I shall be here last. I believe the real purpose of the hon. gentleman, in directing so much of his attention to me and a speech which I say he did not read, was that he hoped to take advantage of the press reports of the speech to make it appear that I was unsympathetic to, and opposed to, a program of social justice leading to a degree of social security, which was espoused by this government and by myself in the last campaign.

My support for things like adjustments of old age pensions, additional pensions for the blind, assistance in the matter of education, and assistance in matters of welfare legislation generally goes back, of course, far beyond 1949. It is perhaps legitimate political strategy—no matter how ill-formed, or, alternatively, insincere—to seize on certain statements from quotations, and honest quotations. In these quotations from anything I said published by anyone or quoted by my hon. friends or anyone else, I have not seen anything which I did not say; but I must say that certain things that I did say