

*Canada Elections Act*

its predecessor a determined effort has been made to obliterate our traditions. English-speaking Canada has the right to speak out on matters such as this and to ask this government to bring an end to the trend.

Think of what has happened in recent years. I have before me a record which has just been sent to me demonstrating actions to degrade the Crown. The Queen is the head of the executive branch of government. She is an integral part of Parliament, but she has been placed in a completely inferior position by this government as of July 1 last in that in the directions sent out to the various departments of government in what might be called the catalogue of public relations a change was made in effect making the cabinet the executive head. Of the Speeches from the Throne that have been brought before Parliament recently, all that remains is the fact that the throne still appears in the description of the speech that is given. The degree to which Her Majesty has been placed in an inferior position is apparent from the fact that she was not mentioned in a recent Speech from the Throne and in the one made in 1969 written by the Prime Minister and spoken by the Governor General in which the following statement appeared:

May I say, too, that Her Majesty's interest in Canada and in Canadians and their affairs will bring the Queen—

To Canada. Her interest in Canadian affairs! Parliament cannot exist without the Queen being a necessary element in Parliament. Indeed, in the same book to which I referred, which deals with the organization of the government of Canada, other, similar changes have been made.

• (11:30 a.m.)

Why is there this pell-mell rush to obliterate one part of our tradition? People are asking themselves why, and why there is not more opposition to it in Parliament. Governments, being human, are always prone to advance those things they believe in even though they are based on uncertain principles, where there is no direct opposition. Another example in the unification of the armed forces might be cited, which was brought about for one purpose only, to remove what were regarded as British uniforms. And what has happened to the armed forces today? By reason of the tinkering of this government, nowhere in the world is there a greater degree of uncertainty, accompanied with loss of morale, than in our armed forces.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It is all part of the picture. The removal of the Queen's portrait from the citizenship courts is another example. We have ministers of the government occupying the highest positions who have advocated the establishment of a republic in Canada.

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There is one who is able to speak out by simply tapping his desk and not identifying himself.

**Mr. De Bané:** A question of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. The hon. member is rising on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The hon. member will have an opportunity to speak later.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** He is rising on a question of privilege.

[Translation]

**Mr. De Bané:** Is the right hon. member aware that his colleague the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) is also in favour of the republic and the abolition of the monarchy?

[English]

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. That is not a question of privilege.

[Translation]

This is not a question of privilege, but a question.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member simply rose to speak under the guise of rising on a question of privilege. May I proceed? Three members of the government have advocated a republic for Canada. Apparently they are steering the course of Canada today in that direction.

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Again, one solitary person is pounding his desk. Sir, a further example is the recent removal of the coat of arms from certain ministerial stationery. Was this as result of a decision of the government? The coat of arms has been on ministerial stationery throughout the years, and now it is removed in some departments. In place of the coat of arms on the stationery of two government departments is a monogram with the letters "CL", which stands for "Department