

The Address—Mr. Leboe

our greatest problems. We will place men and women in nomination across Canada offering the alternative which will seal the fate of the party now in power in Canada, just as surely as the voters have sealed the fate of the self-same party provincially in most of the provinces of Canada.

Pre-election spending, which is merely placing the real nature of things in a more favourable light, will not, in my humble opinion, fool the people of Canada very long.

As soon as Canadians realize that in our movement they have a bona fide alternative, there will be a change of government in Canada, and we will provide that alternative on the basis of—get this—a positive program of policies based on truth, and free of patronage.

I have been told by many people in my riding that my riding would be sadly neglected by this government by reason of the fact that I do not sit with the government. As a matter of fact, I noticed that in some of the advertisements that were published during our federal campaign. This point of view, I am certain, will prove unfounded. Certainly, since after a member is elected he is presumed, in the best tradition of democracy, to represent all of the people of his electoral district without fear, favour or regard to political views, one would hardly expect the polite hard-luck story from any department with respect to any real need that should be met in that particular district. We do hope that those who suspect this government would favour districts with members elected to the government and disregard the needs of those districts who elected members now sitting in the opposition are entirely wrong, and that events will show that we still have a government of all the people, even if they should fail to govern well.

Perhaps there are some here who do not realize the size of some of these northern electoral districts and the need for assistance in air travel to serve the area adequately. The distance from the southern boundary of the Cariboo riding to the northern boundary is about the same as from Ottawa to Fort William, and if you want to go east it is the same distance as from Ottawa to the northern point of Nova Scotia. That is one riding. I may say that that riding cannot be covered by railway, because the railway is not there—I hope it will be there some day. I feel that we should have some sort of equalization of expense money or some other means adequately to compensate these great distances that people have to travel in these northern ridings. The people are just as important at the very far north of the riding as they are in the south.

One fellow told me he had a riding every part of which he could reach within ten minutes from one point. I have a riding that is over 1,000 miles from south to north, and I have an expense account of \$2,000 and a pass on a railway that does not exist. Some people may think that is funny; but to those people who certainly want to do a job in looking after their riding let me say it is no joke. This proposition of air travel will come up perhaps at a later stage in the session and we are going to be looking forward to a little assistance for those coming from Alberta and from the British Columbia area especially.

Mr. Goode: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Leboe: I am sorry; after six o'clock. We should keep in mind the distance from the coast of British Columbia to Ottawa and also to Newfoundland. It takes these people five days to get here by train, but they can fly over in a few hours. I think consideration should be given to them in that respect.

I notice that the clock is getting on and I would ask you to call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that the hon. member wishes to embark upon a different division of his speech.

Mr. Leboe: That is true, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: And therefore he has asked at this time that I call it six o'clock. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Leboe: Mr. Speaker, I was quite prepared to answer the question asked by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Goode), but I notice that the hon. member is not with us, so I shall proceed. Our people in the Cariboo have a great many needs. That is nothing unusual, but there are certain needs in some districts that are most vital not only to the well-being of the people in those districts but because of the part they play in national defence. I should like to mention a few of those needs tonight.

Our people, in the part of British Columbia which I represent, lack adequate telephone communications. Prince George is 265 miles distant from Dawson Creek and yet there is no telephone service between those two points. We often find when a highway is