

*The Address—Mr. G. Caouette*

history, is a sense of national purpose. We need to recognize that what is going on in French Canada and in English Canada is very similar to what is going on in Western Europe. Ordinary people on both continents, in advanced industrialized societies, are saying that they want a greater say within economic enterprises. They want more liberty in terms of economic institutions and in terms of controlling their own destinies. They are saying they want a greater degree of equality in terms of the output of those economic institutions.

If this is happening in both Quebec and English Canada—and I think it is—we must remember why Quebecers voted for the PQ. Overwhelmingly, studies show they were voting that way because they wanted practical reforms of this kind. English Canadians want the same kinds of reforms. So if the Prime Minister wants to show national leadership—because he is in a position to do it; he is the Prime Minister—he should bring to this country a sense of great national purpose, a revitalization of the expectations of English and French-speaking Canadians alike, and establish anew in this land the belief that jointly we can pursue the age-old goals of liberty and equality, at the same time remaining Francophone or Anglophone in our basic culture.

I now move an amendment to the motion which has been moved. It has some bearing on what I have just said. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the amendment be amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma, and by adding immediately thereafter the following words:

"and this House regrets in particular the announced intention of the government to reintroduce the \$1.2 billion in tax concessions provided in the March budget to large corporate interests, it being the view of this House that at a time when manufacturing is operating at only 80 per cent capacity, what we need instead are tax cuts for middle and lower income earners and an increase in direct job creation programs as requested by the premiers of all the provinces of Canada."

● (1832)

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Gilles Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, as is the custom, I would like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. During these two days, yesterday and today, we had the opportunity of seeing the political game at work. One day we listen to the Speech from the Throne and we hear one thing about one subject and, the day after, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) comes here to tell us the exact opposite of what was said yesterday in the speech. Today the Prime Minister started his remarks, in the short section he reserved to that issue, by saying that we did not need new economic theories, new economic strategies, whereas in the Speech from the Throne it was said, I quote:

High rates of unemployment and inflation are clear signals of the inadequacy of economic strategies appropriate to simpler times.

Therefore, we must change our methods. I was pleased to note that the throne speech gave us that new image, that new philosophy or at least the awareness that the economic systems of the 16th century should be altered to apply modern economic systems to our contemporary problems. Unfortunately, the

[Mr. Broadbent.]

Prime Minister turned right about today and said that we must not proceed too quickly, that we must have a national conscience. There is no problem. Well, the problems due to unemployment are ascribable to the unemployed.

Foreign countries and not this government are responsible for the problem of inflation. Imports and other countries such as the United States, France and others are responsible. We forget to improve the well-being of the Canadian people and the blame is put on external causes. The same thing is true about the debate on Canadian unity. No, this government once again is not responsible for the problems. It is not an economic issue, but the Parti Québécois is to blame. If there are some unemployed in Montreal, if Montreal is experiencing a financial crisis, the Canadian economy has nothing to do with that, it is due to the election of the Parti Québécois. It is as if we would say that New York is on the verge of bankruptcy on account of Negroes in the southern states. This emotive game is used to divert attention from the fundamental and central issue which is the economic problem and new solutions and theories to be applied to the economy. If Quebecers are not satisfied with Confederation and returns received from the federal government, it is not because the federal government spoke English or French but because economically they do not feel as if they were entitled to live honourably as others do throughout Canada.

When I travel in British Columbia or in the Maritimes and I meet someone who is poor and there are many in each province; in some they speak English, in the province of Quebec they speak French. Therefore, it is not a linguistic problem but an economic one. The problem is the following: some people cannot live in their homes the way they like. The right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said: Oh, yes, things are going just fine. Everything has doubled since 1945. Production has doubled in Canada, doubled here and doubled there. But he forgets to say that the cost of living has doubled and even quadrupled since 1945.

They claim they are improving our situation! Indeed, modern technology and the inventive skill of man are there to create automation and make the burden of the workers easier, but thanks to an economic system the right hon. Prime Minister refuses absolutely to change, these workers are made to suffer, because the inventive skill of man has created something to help them.

While, in this day and age, technology can improve productivity both quantitatively and qualitatively, it penalizes workers by depriving them of their right to work and the power to buy the end product of the machine. Here they say they are improving the situation! The government knows how to play with words, but as evidenced in the Speech from the Throne, the government is striving to lay the blame on somebody else's doorstep, refusing to assume its responsibilities. One cannot help being impressed by a phrase such as this in the Speech from the Throne: On a national scale, unemployment now constitutes a very serious obstacle to economic growth.

Now if growth is not as expected or does not move fast enough unemployment is to be blamed. Unemployment is a