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Halton M.P. Makes Parliament Speech

Making his maiden speech in Parliament on December 9th, Halton M.P. Sandy Best spoke at some length on a motion presented by the CCF concerning Canada's 100th anniversary. The account, as it appeared in Hansard, is continued from last week.

We have noticed in recent weeks that the gradual downward trend of interest rates is continuing, and we hope this bill will be even more noticeable in the future. The tight money policy, child as it was of the previous government, has meant a much reduced rate of home building in my riding, tremendous difficulties for our municipalities, and the considerable unemployment. Let the hon. gentlemen opposite consider as they stir their dark cauldrons of fear and foreboding that they spawned these troubles of unemployment and that the linkage is direct and unmistakable.

The mortgage money made available by our government on two occasions has helped, and will help, the housing situation very considerably. The resolution before us talks of housing and slum clearance, and we intend to go forward and face these problems. The government's decisions to lower down payment requirements on new lost cost homes, and ease income restrictions, were indeed wise. We hope that further moves and reorganizations in the field of low cost housing are planned for the future. This will all be part of the national development policy that we have promised the people of this country, and which will bring increased employment and a thorough development of our country's resources by, and for, Canadians. This policy is now beginning to unfold, and makes unnecessary, by its very action and practicability, the intent of the hon. member's resolution.

The social development of Canada, as observed in the resolution before us, is of great importance. Our party believes in social benefits of a just and reasonable nature, and we have taken certain preliminary steps to change and modify our present methods.

Increased pensions for senior citizens will greatly aid our older people as well as their children, who are in many cases responsible for young families, to gain a foothold themselves, and support their parents as well. The reduction of the residence requirement from 20 to 10 years partially removes a serious discrimination against our new Canadians. We have in Halton some 7,000 of these people who have come to Canada in the last few years, bringing with them specialized skills and knowledge, and whose development, in a material sense, has not cost us the inevitable subsidization in education, health and other fields, which most of us have experienced. These measures are a step in the right direction, a prelude to what we hope will be a comprehensive and thorough reassessment of our social security measures.

The increased war veterans allowances are merely the due of men who saved our country in many times past, and a credit to the Canadian Legion, which plays a large and constructive role in our various communities.

The recent difficult and courageous decision by the cabinet to continue the CF-105 production program at Malton has aided the economy of my county a good deal, and I note that sectional economy is mentioned in the resolution. There is every evidence that an extension of conventional aircraft and general military development will be necessary for some years to come. Utterances from Russia, to the effect that missiles will present the only solutions to offensive or defensive operations, are not borne out, even by the Russians themselves. Their large build-up of submarines and other conventional mil-

itary material indicates a very definite balance or reliance on their part, on both the new strategy of missiles and the older methods which have been used up to now.

I wonder, from time to time, Mr. Speaker, just why it is that we have not been further ahead in various military fields and why we should face recurrent and convulsive shocks in our employment and working program at Malton, several thousand of whose workers live in my own county. I hope it will not be written that we were too late, and that the former government's neglect both of diversification in the economic sense and lack of vision in the military field at Malton and its allied industries was a measure of our loss of leadership and freedom.

Possibly, but improbably, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party opposite is planning a new national development policy in accordance with this resolution. The two chief exponents of that party, one to the left and one to the right, equally placed about their leader, are faring forth these days in search of plunder. One to the east, and one to the west a curious set of twins, the remnant of the brass put out to grass, and the farther they go, it seems, the greener it gets.

Somewhere along the road, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party lost its small 'L' liberalism and ended up as a large 'L' Liberal shell with nothing much inside. So, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Byrne: You haven't done anything.

Mr. Carter: You have read all your speech.

Mr. Best: I should like to refer to this week's issue of *Weekend Magazine*, the issue dated November 30, because it contains some words by the hon. member for Alma East. (Mr. Pearson.)

Mr. Dupuis: Get back to the resolution.

Mr. Best: I see that this article has been read by some hon. members opposite, but it provides some interesting quotations on the history of the Liberal party.

Mr. Winch: Have you been offered the Nobel prize yet?

Mr. Best: Liberalism means, to the hon. member for Algoma East, change, reform and improvement. These, he says, are the essentials of Liberalism. Again I quote:

I would like to think that over the years the Liberal party with a capital 'L' has been the best embodiment of that liberal philosophy with a small 'l'.

I would submit, Mr. Speaker — hon. member for Bonaville-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) to the contrary — that something must have gone wrong along the road, and the party with the small 'l' liberalism, in its best sense, is the party that represents progress, future and vision in this country, today, sitting on your right hand.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the hon. member would permit me to ask him a question.

Mr. Best: Go back to your fish nets. Sit down.

Mr. Pickersgill: I would like to ask him a question since he has taken.

Mr. Hodgson: This is his first speech, what is wrong with you? Just cannot take it, eh?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, no, but I am just asking if he will permit a question. If the hon. gentleman who is speaking wishes me to sit down I will.

Mr. Best: I will certainly permit a question.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think those of us on this side of the house who have listened with interest to the hon. gentleman's speech upon which I congratulate him — I think he has caught the ear of the house and even my rather deaf ear — but I think most of us would be a great deal more interested in the hon. gentleman's own definition of conservatism than in hearing repeatedly the excellent definition of liberalism of my colleague from Algoma East.

Mr. Best: I will be delighted, Mr. Speaker, to reply to the hon. gentleman's question. The definition of conservatism, as I see it, today, is the actions and programs that the government in the last five months has brought before this house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Best: You asked for it. You asked for it.

Mr. Knowles: (Winnipeg North Centre): Plus rising unemployment.

An hon. Member: That is all you can talk about.

Mr. Best: That is a problem, definitely a problem and, as I have said, a legacy, which comes from the other side of the house. We believe in a just system of social security, of helping people to help themselves, in the form of tax reductions, particularly for those younger families with children and — as we saw the other evening — the aid of small businessmen, and greater unification of all Canada through the encouragement of economic projects in various distressed areas. All this I call economic reform, which is a great and far change from the colourless and inert policies of the previous administration.

Mr. Pickersgill: Just the same policies.

Mr. Best: And let us look at the side other than the economic standpoint. We are a party of reform because we have, and intend to still further return to the individual in this country those rights and privileges which have gradu-

GREETINGS FROM GAZA ARE PHONED BY FRIEND

A phone call from Gaza was perhaps the farthest Christmas greeting received by a local person this year. Unfortunately, the man for whom it was intended was not on hand to receive it in person.

Bill Sirianni, stationed with Canadian NATO forces with the signal corps made the call to say Merry Christmas to David Hastings, 24 John St. E. The men were friends when they were residents of Fernie, B.C. Mr. Hastings has meanwhile joined the Herald staff in town. Married a few weeks ago, he has no phone as yet in his apartment, and Mr. Sirianni called Dave's parents' home in Toronto. Christmas-Eve hoping he might be there.

It was a two-way radio call, relayed from Gaza, via Naples, Italy, Ottawa and Oshawa. Mr. Sirianni and Dave's father, spoke for some time. Mr. Sirianni described his unusual Christmas, with the temperature 92 and Christmas trees flown in from Italy to give the troops a touch of home.

and it was, as they had indicated at that time, due to a definite shrinkage in the buying market here in Canada. They have, in my opinion, acted with much more responsibility.

I would say that the measure announced in the cutting of the excise tax the other evening by the hon. the Minister of Finance was a very definite help to the industry. I hope it will be larger in the future. I must admit, but one point I would like to bring out in this chamber is that the announcement of the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan) just a week ago this Monday night, was an unprecedented step which was most welcome to the whole automobile industry. This government set a new pattern in stating that tax reductions, if they were made, would be reflected by the industry and that the various dealers involved would not be penalized for having purchased new cars before the time of the announcement. That to my mind was a tremendously important step, a wholly new step in the concept of taxation.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock at this time?

At six o'clock the house took recess.

James McCaig Head Credit Masonic Lodge

James McCaig, 37 Maple Ave. W., was elected worshipful master of Credit Lodge AF&AM, No. 219 when members chose their new officers for 1958 at a lodge meeting on December 11th. Mr. McCaig succeeds Thomas Niven, 2 John St. E., who will relinquish the position in January.

Other lodge officers who will serve next year are: James Linton, 6 Lyons Ct., senior warden; Graham Farnell, 19 Albert Street, junior warden; Roy G. Lockhart, Royal, Norval, chaplain; Everett Cole, 44 Charles St., treasurer; Jack Addy, Glen Williams, senior deacon; Charles Renwick, 18 Victoria Cresc., Junior Deacon; Irwin Noble, 118 Guelph St., inner guard; Edwin Wilson, Valleyview Rd., Tyler; Bob Lawson, Stewarttown, senior steward; Bert Fiddler, 94 Guelph St., junior steward; Alf Goodwin, 25 Albert St., pianist; Sam MacKenzie, 50 Main St. S., and John D. Kelly, 11 Albert St., auditors. George Sivill was elected assistant secretary.

A group of Toronto entertainers who were to have appeared at the lodge ladies night last month and arrived too late after losing their way coming from the city, provided the program for the evening.

Notice To Creditors

In the Estate of ARTHUR JOHN MCGUIGAN, milk truck driver, deceased.

ALL PERSONS having claims against the estate of Arthur John McGuigan, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, milk truck driver, who died on or about the 21st day of September, 1957, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January, 1958, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person whose claim he shall not then have notice.

DATED at Georgetown, this 30th day of December, 1957.

Arthur McGuigan, Administrator of the estate of Arthur John McGuigan, by his solicitors, DALE, BENNETT & LATIMER, 1-15 Georgetown, Ontario.

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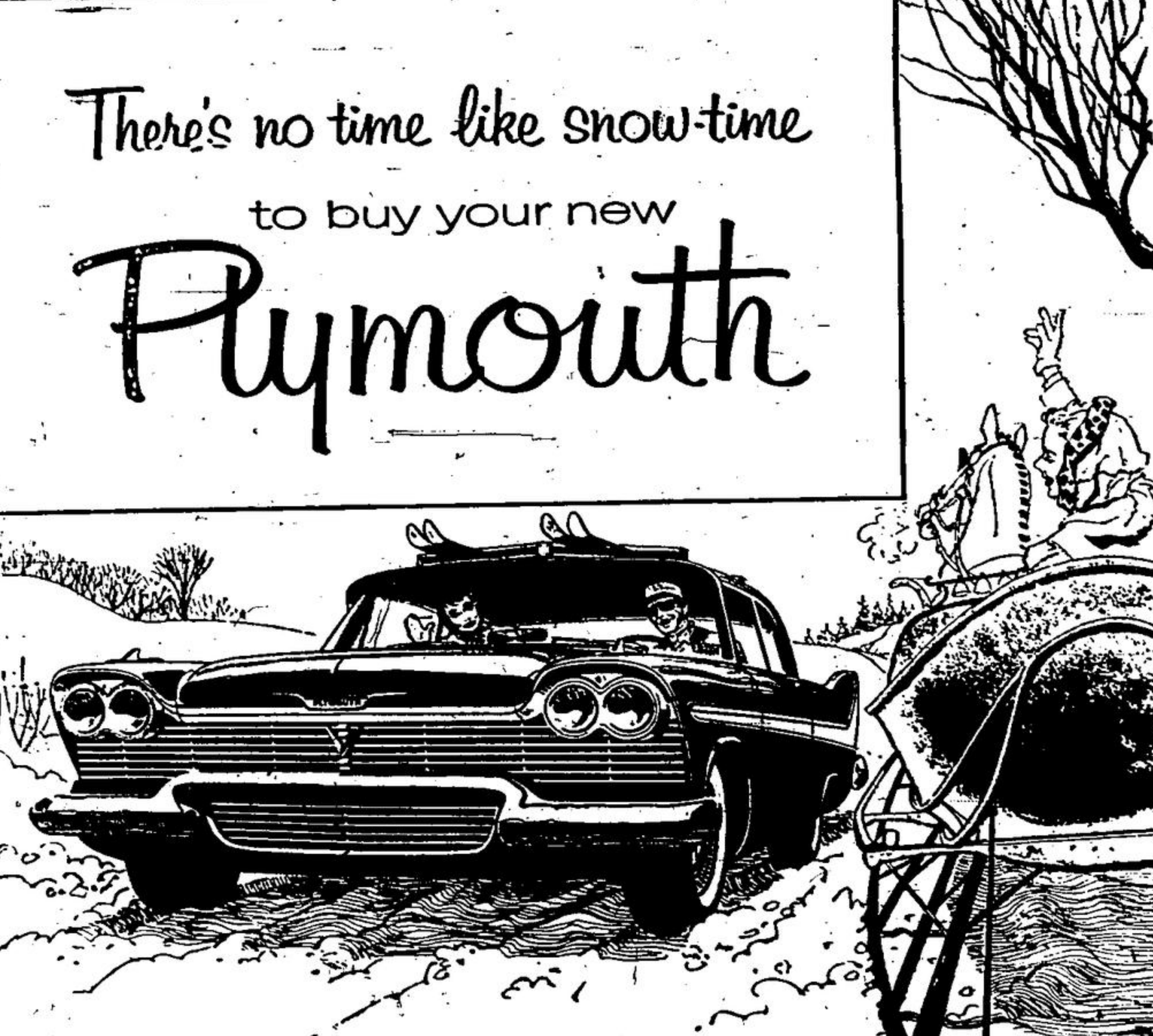
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