

*The Address—Mr. MacInnis*

Transport based on a statement attributed to the hon. gentleman in the *Ottawa Journal* of November 10, to the effect that Canadian National Railways president Donald Gordon is continuing in office for the time being although his appointment has expired. Will the minister explain to the house whether in fact an appointment has now been made and, if not, the cause of the delay in making any such appointment?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as the house is aware, in the throne speech of yesterday the government declared its intention of increasing the number of directors of the Canadian National Railways from 7 to 12. The government has decided that instead of making these appointments piecemeal they will all be made at the same time, and in the meantime the directors have agreed to carry on their functions.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Chevrier:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport a supplementary question, arising out of the one I just asked. If the appointment of the president of the C.N.R. has run out, as the minister has indicated it has, how then is the president's salary being paid?

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, the appointment of the president has not run out. The appointment of four directors expired on September 30. They have been asked to carry on and are carrying on.

**Mr. Chevrier:** But under what authority are they carrying on?

**Mr. Balcer:** Under the authority of the act.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. DONALD  
MACINNIS AND SECONDED BY MR.  
REMI PAUL

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Mr. Speaker, whenever a new session of parliament convenes the hon. member whose duty and privilege it is to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne rises in his place and protests that the honour was intended, not for him personally but for the constituency he represents.

In no case within my memory has that statement been more appropriate or significant than it is today. By selecting a representative from a mining town in Nova Scotia for this task the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) apparently seeks to direct

the attention and interest of the nation in a dramatic and forceful way to the problems of the Atlantic region.

In particular, I believe the Prime Minister is concerned and wishes to enlist the concern of this house for the grave situation in the coal industry of Nova Scotia. Therefore, I am honoured, not only to express the views toward the speech from the throne which I know are shared by a majority of the members of the house but I am also very conscious of my responsibilities today as spokesman for my friends and colleagues from Cape Breton and the mainland of Nova Scotia, all of whose constituencies are vitally affected by the fortunes and misfortunes of the coal industry.

Before I proceed may I be the first to congratulate the new members and to place on record my welcome to the hon. members for Niagara Falls (Miss LaMarsh), for Peterborough (Mr. Pitman), for Labelle (Mr. Clermont) and for Royal (Mr. Flemming). I am particularly happy to see that the new forestry portfolio has been assigned to a member from the Atlantic provinces. Quite aside from the importance of the portfolio itself, it is encouraging to us who come from Canada's far east to note the elevation to the cabinet of one of New Brunswick's most distinguished and respected native sons. I wish to congratulate the other hon. members who have been sworn of the privy council since last we met.

On September 26 Canadians proudly heard their Prime Minister speak for them and for the common people of all races, colours and creeds on the earth, to the chiefs of state gathered at the general assembly of the United Nations. We as Canadians are grateful and offer the Prime Minister our warmest congratulations and thanks for a job well done. The Prime Minister spoke for a free people living in an independent country which has held proudly to its partnership in the commonwealth of nations. He spoke to the rulers of the captive nations. He spoke with the conviction and the eloquence of a man whose love for parliament and for free democratic institutions is his greatest single asset. In speaking for Canada, in articulating the Canadian philosophy he expressed as well the spirit of the millions of people whose longing for freedom has as yet no forum for expression. I mention this speech of the Prime Minister because I know that Canada seeks to teach not only by precept but by example as well.

I am sure all sides of the house will wish to join with me in extending congratulations to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) on the fine representation he has