

The Address—Mr. Marceau

help themselves. Government also has an obligation to fight pollution, to help find and construct housing, to protect the unwary consumer and to be constantly alert to the need for changes in the Criminal Code so as better to reflect the kind of protection required by present day society.

Government also has an obligation to recognize regional disparity in this country—and we acknowledge the need to cope with that problem. Our proposed Indian policy establishes guidelines for debate, negotiation, compromise and decision. We recognize the sores of national disunity and we must find a panacea for this sickness. We are all disturbed to find “la belle province” becoming “the bellicose province”. Each ministry has its own obligation to meet the needs of the people of Canada. Some of the measures necessary will be popular and some will be unpopular but ultimate responsibility rests with the ministry to initiate the kind of legislation which in its opinion best copes with the situation facing Canada.

● (3.20 p.m.)

In English, and in somewhat halting French, I have endeavoured to express some points of view which I feel we in this House should be pondering. We have a new session before us, a throne speech outlining the government's proposals, a program welcoming—yes, demanding—scrutiny and constructive criticism by opposition parties. With the government's lead, with the opposition's criticism and assistance, and with conduct becoming this chamber, we can do that which is good for Canada.

I have the honour to move, seconded by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Marceau):

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Hon. Roland Michener, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, upon whom has been conferred the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, the best time, the richest, the most promising, is the present.

[Mr. Cullen.]

These words probably were spoken before, but I can say that for me today, their meaning and scope goes beyond any description.

Does this mean that I misunderstand the meaning of the mandate that was entrusted to me? Not at all!

[*English*]

As a matter of fact, I am quite positive that I will succeed in giving you the impression that I have passed the illusion stage and that the opportunity given to me by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to second the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne is not based on my personal merit but instead on the great importance of this part of the country that I represent and in which I am so proud to live.

[*Translation*]

The history of this part of Canada has been written by Mgr. Victor Tremblay and I hope you will allow me to mention distinctive features, since it is of the utmost importance to know one's country well and to make it well known to those by whom we want it to be loved.

This vast region is made up of four areas: Abitibi, North Shore, Saguenay and Lac St. Jean, which are complementary and form a region of their own, with its distinct character, and an interesting section of Canada as a whole.

The word “Saguenay”, meaning “gushing water”, is the oldest and most genuine in the Canadian toponymy.

[*English*]

The name Canada, according to history, appears to have been adopted just a few days after the name Saguenay. It is significant and interesting to note that the “Canada” designated at that time was the small area of the country which is today the city of Quebec and its surroundings.

[*Translation*]

The Saguenay region is part of the massif known as the Canadian Shield which is made up of rocks derived from the most ancient structures of the earth's crust.

Its history spreads over more than four centuries; it starts with that of our Canadian homeland of which it is one of the forgotten pearls.

It was discovered at the same time as Canada and was first a settlers' land, but, in view of its enormous water resources, which today produce nearly 12 million horse-power,