

we can move towards this togetherness, and thus take a great step forward in our objective of Canadian unity. Former Prime Minister Pearson once said, "There is only one kind of citizen in Canada—and that is a first class citizen". This is the theme of the Speech from the Throne.

These are difficult times, nationally and internationally. I am positive that Canadians will, as they have always done, rise to the occasion, and continue to build in this country a society that offers opportunity for all, security for those who need it, and a future unequalled anywhere in this wide world.

Honourable senators, it is my pleasure to move the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

[Translation]

Hon. Renaude Lapointe: Honourable senators, in doing me the honour of asking me to second the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, my leader showed confidence in me. I am deeply touched and I want him to know how grateful I am. On this the first opportunity I have to speak in the Senate, I wish first of all to pay a sincere tribute to the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Jean-Paul Deschatelets, for the warm and cordial simplicity of his welcome, for his integrity and his unerring judgment, for the able, impartial, friendly and very informal way he fulfils his important duties.

To the stature of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Honourable Paul Martin, who so ably represented our country with dignity on every international scene, and who continues to promote its interests with unflagging energy, the timid praise of a newcomer can add nothing. Still, may I thank him on behalf of each of us, for the vigour with which, verbally and through the newspapers, he stood up for the Senate against the attacks and criticisms to which it was subjected late last year, and for the clarity with which he explained the role of the Senate in the study of the most controversial bills of the last session. The vast extent of his knowledge, the result of a long and solid experience in public and diplomatic life, deserves also to be mentioned once again.

I also salute the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, the Honourable Jacques Flynn, who preceded me in journalism. As a witness of his activities in Quebec, I was later able to appreciate from afar, on many an occasion, his forceful interventions in the Senate.

Finally, I beg of all my honourable colleagues to believe that their welcoming wishes reassured me, and that they can depend on my wholehearted co-operation. The recent achievements, outstanding in every respect, of the honourable Senators Croll, Davey, Lamontagne and Everett honour this august assembly and we are proud of the interest their work has awakened.

Succeeding the Honourable Thérèse Casgrain, whose dynamic personality and lively career earned her an international reputation, is no easy task; replacing her is impossible. Having left the Senate while still full of energy and drive, the one I once called the "Peace fighter" will certainly not cease to fulfil a very useful role within the Quebec and Canadian community. I here express my admiration for her and extend to her my best wishes.

Brilliantly analyzed by my colleague Senator Buckwold, the Speech from the Throne has philosophical and social

rather than political implications. Senator Buckwold's speech and mine are strangely similar, even though we only met tonight. This proves that French-speaking and English-speaking people are quite alike.

The Speech from the Throne emphasizes the feeling of loneliness of the individual in an increasingly complex and impersonal system.

The concern of the government which would like to dispel that painful feeling and make each citizen understand the meaning of its personality and its own value is underlined throughout that significant document.

In a country such as ours, designed for giants, must we be surprised if the human being sometimes feels Lilliputian? Must we be surprised if he experiences more strongly than elsewhere an inner feeling of helplessness which is clashing with an opposite feeling, that of boundless hopes commensurate with the country where he is living? Whether he is the victim of geographic remoteness, whether he is discriminated against on account of the group to which he belongs or whether he is affected by economic deprivation, that Canadian feels outside the stream leading his more fortunate fellow citizens to progress and some kind of happiness.

Removing the barriers raised by those various forms of physical, social or moral loneliness is one of the main objectives set by the government for the years to come.

At the present time, we are quite clearly conscious of one of the most painful feelings experienced by that large percentage of people reduced to inactivity. Not only the unemployed cannot play their part in the development of the country, but the economic circumstances compel them to lead a parasitic life deeply undermining their energies while lowering a little more each day their pride and self-confidence. Unemployment is in fact a phenomenon that goes beyond the individual's understanding and that leaves him helpless, looking for an answer that does not come. A government that recognizes this unfortunate reality will naturally give high priority to the creation of more jobs. But can such a government undertake this alone? To give new impetus to the economy, the government must establish closer co-operation with the business world and with industry—which can also create jobs—and, while asking business leaders to be more daring and more imaginative, it should also propose to them, without delay, an industrial strategy which takes into account the needs of the country, as several Canadian experts have recently suggested.

The isolation in which the poor find themselves is no less distressing. Those particularly unfortunate people have long realized that they cannot, even with the greatest good will, take advantage of the present provisions of Canadian Manpower programs. The time has long come for the training and placement services created by that department, which for many years have been the object of some criticism, to be changed in order to meet the real needs of those people.

In the same way, the isolation of the worker, who has a family and who, in an urban environment, finds it very difficult to find decent housing for his wife and his five or six children, may give rise to indignation and rebellion when he walks past apartment buildings which are for-