

The Address—Mr. Thompson

to our domestic production potential. And yet, I hear members of various parties say that we need an increased productivity, an increased production. If we want to produce more let us, first of all, create a buying power to purchase the goods. It is the only possible solution, to really solve this far-reaching problem in Canada.

We ask for interest-free loans to provinces, municipalities, school boards by the Bank of Canada and the Minister of Finance, who is in his seat, should order the Bank of Canada to finance our own institutions, as he finances other countries throughout the world. If we can find money to help Jamaica and foreign countries, money should be found to help Canada as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Creditistes will co-operate with the government as long as it respects human beings in Canada, as long as its first concern is to guarantee to each and every one of us economic security and personal freedoms, and as long as it tries to set up in Canada an economic system which will allow any citizen to enter the economic scene according to his personal aspirations, his capabilities and his talents. I would like to paraphrase at this point the late President of the United States, Mr. Kennedy: Let us not ask ourselves what Canada can do for us; let us ask ourselves what we, as parliamentarians, can do for Canada.

As parliamentarians, let us sincerely ask ourselves whether we are giving Canada an economic system which allows every one of us to develop freely and with complete security.

• (12:20 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to join with the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the other party leaders in extending my congratulations to the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Goyer) and the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury) for their thoughtful contributions in moving and seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. Certainly their maiden speeches were worthy of the responsibility that was given to them.

I should also like to extend to you again, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations on your election to the very important position which you hold in the house. In the last few days you have already shown us your ability to handle this important position. A tremendous,

special responsibility rests upon you in a house of minorities such as we have and we are grateful for the unanimity of support that has already been given to you, which is an indication of the respect with which you are held in this house.

I should also like to take this opportunity of welcoming to our ranks in the house all those hon. members who are here for the first time. I note that the changeover of new members is about on a par with previous elections, but I think at this time of the centennial there is a special responsibility resting upon those who have joined us, particularly the younger men. I assure them, Mr. Speaker, that on our part there is a warm welcome for all of them. I think it is only fair that we also extend that same welcome to those hon. members of the house who were here previously.

I think it is also in order to extend a word of congratulation at this time to the new members of the cabinet. In respect of the re-organization of government that has been outlined in the Speech from the Throne and had already been indicated by the government, even though a certain amount of confusion exists in the minds of us all with regard to who is responsible for what particular function a word of congratulation is due to the new members of the cabinet on their promotion to these positions of responsibility.

Much has been said in this house about the value of parliament, its function, its purpose and its preservation. I agree with what has been said. Last year saw the 750th anniversary of Magna Carta and the 700th anniversary of the first democratic parliament, and as this is the 100th year of this parliament I think it is well that we be reminded of the importance that parliament holds as the heartbeat of the democratic process. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say, God forbid that parliament should ever disappear from the Canadian scene or that its position should ever be weakened by the actions of any of us who make up this twenty seventh parliament.

I would say to those who attempted last night to take away the privilege that has been extended to party leaders of having the opportunity of expressing their party's policy—I say this also to the members of the press, because there seems to be some confusion as to what actually was the issue—that it has never been our contention that there should be an equal division of time so far as speaking is concerned amongst the members of the parties in this house, but that time