

our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, before proceeding with my speech, I should like to commend the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate for the ability and skill with which he has presided over the proceedings of this assembly. I also want to congratulate the Leader of the Government in the Senate for the care he has shown in the preparation of the legislation we will be considering and for the deference with which he presides over these debates. Both are discharging their functions brilliantly. I am sure I am expressing the feelings of all the senators sitting here.

Honourable senators, I am deeply conscious of the honour and privilege bestowed upon any Canadian who is asked to represent his fellow citizens in the Senate. I also fully realize the responsibility that lies with anyone who gets up to speak in this house. I do not assume such a responsibility lightly.

Canada is today on the threshold of its greatest national development. All those sitting in this house are fully aware of the great developments that took place in the last two decades. We are conscious of the tremendous industrial progress that was carried out and of the major improvement in our living standard. We want a new spirit of Canadian unity to preside over the creation of a country with unequalled possibilities. We believe that the administration under the able leadership of the present Prime Minister reflects such new spirit.

However, we must be on the lookout at all times. It is necessary, on many occasions, to keep consciously away from parochial spirit and from pressures which tend to divide and which, in other countries, have caused confusion and despair. Canada is not a totalitarian country. It wants to give free expression to any opinion that does not exceed the bounds of decency and is not akin to treason or sedition. It holds dear the preservation of all rights and privileges of those in opposition, in order that they may render service, as it is their duty to do so as constant and vigilant critics of government legislation.

The over-all purpose is to protect the public. It is the very foundation of our political system. However, criticism must not degenerate into a mania, it must not be indulged in for the sake of criticizing and it must not consist of a series of attacks and insinuations against the worthwhile activities of those

who are entrusted with the administration of the country. I must say here that I disapprove of the disparaging campaign of insinuations and attacks launched by a handful of malcontents in Canada.

Our country is very prosperous at present. More people are at work now than in the past several years. Unemployment is going down. During the week end, I read in the March 28, 1965 edition of a Montreal newspaper, *Le Petit Journal*, an editorial dealing with the situation in Canada and I should like to quote a single paragraph from it:

At first glance, one feels satisfied when reading about statistics concerning employment in Canada last February. During that month, which is usually the worst month of the year so far as unemployment is concerned, the number of unemployed persons not only decreased, compared to February of last year, but it even decreased compared with January. This is all the more significant since the number of workers is increasing daily in this country.

As I said a while ago, there are more people at work today than for several years previously. Unemployment is on the wane. Our industries are busier than ever; the average salaries of Canadian workers are also higher than they have ever been. Our Canadian citizens never had it so good; they enjoy many things which they never had before, for instance, a home, an automobile, a refrigerator, an electric stove, a radio and a television. All classes and groups benefit from this new prosperity.

It is true that some people are already complaining, but is it not human that intelligent people should complain? We have not reached Utopia, and no one will ever reach it, because, whatever our standard of living may be, some people will always wish that it be higher. Nowhere in the world, with the exception of the United States, is the standard of living higher than in Canada. Besides, our fellow Canadians benefit from family allowances, youth allowances, old age pensions, pensions for the blind and the disabled and, thanks to the legislation recently passed, every Canadian will benefit from a universal contributory old age pension plan. Those are but a few of the advantages to be found in a fiscal policy which guarantees to every Canadian a better and happier life.

We in the Senate are under an obligation to the country as a whole. It is not one to be fulfilled merely by passing legislation or resolutions, but above all by showing the way to