

The Address—Mr. Goodale

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The hon. member may continue, of course, if there is unanimous consent. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Mazankowski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank hon. members for allowing me extra time. I shall only take two or three minutes.

I want to talk briefly about the Senate reform that was mentioned in the Prime Minister's speech, and to commend him for some of the proposals he advanced. In my opinion, however, the Prime Minister could be doing Canada a great service by moving to restrict the excessive political participation that some of our senior Senators engage in, particularly in the matter of holding office in their respective parties.

I will not mention any names but I think it is fairly well known that many notable Senators of the Liberal Party engage in vigorous political activity, particularly at election time. I think it is time for Senators to appear as servants of the Canadian people and not servants of the Liberal party. In my opinion the actions of certain notable Liberal Senators constitute a blatant interference with the process of legitimate parliamentary democracy. I would hope at least, even if it is not legislated, that some hon. Senators would think twice before engaging in this sort of activity. Such actions downgrade the performance of the Senate and downgrade the performance of its individual members.

Surely the time has come when we should consider necessary parliamentary reforms. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) in his speech described at great length what he thought was necessary to accomplish this. If we are to appear credible to the Canadian people, and if this institution is to appear credible, surely steps could be taken to restrict such blatant abuse as we witnessed on the part of some members of the Senate.

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Assiniboia): As I begin my brief remarks today I want to extend, as have other members of this House, my congratulations to Mr. Speaker, and those associated with him, on their appointment to office. I am sure it is a great tribute to his electors and to his great abilities that he has been elected to that high office. I know we all wish him well and are confident of his ability to discharge his responsibilities to this House.

When I spoke earlier this week about the urgent problem of the grain handling situation in Vancouver I was a bit preoccupied with that situation and did not have a chance to extend my congratulations. On that topic I am indeed pleased that parliament moved expeditiously to end the tieup at Vancouver. It was a demonstration of this parliament dealing with a situation as speedily as possible. I must admit that in the early stages I was just a little concerned about the possibility of delay through filibuster or some other tactic, but fortunately that did not happen and I think members of this House are to be congratulated.

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

Particularly, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank and congratulate the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro), his parliamentary secretary, and also the government House Leader for the leadership they showed as the legislation moved through the House and in committee. I think enough has been said for the time being on that topic. The grain is beginning to move again and that is good news for all Canadians, especially western farmers.

To all members of this chamber, Mr. Speaker, veterans and freshmen, I want to extend best wishes and congratulations on behalf of Assiniboia constituency. I know the people of my riding are looking forward to a busy and productive parliament.

I do not think I have to provide too much background to this House on the historic constituency of Assiniboia. In almost every parliament it has been a highly visible riding. It has a tradition of vigorous representation and, if I may beg the indulgence of the House, I should like to name some of those who have occupied this seat in this House. There were names like Ross Thatcher, Hazen Argue and, as he is still known in Saskatchewan, Tommy Douglas. They are still a part of that vigorous tradition. Traditionally Assiniboia has not been what one would describe as inconspicuous in this House, and I hope that tradition will continue in some measure at least.

I should like to make special reference in this Throne Speech debate to one particular former member for Assiniboia. He was a very special man and I think he especially deserved the designation "honourable member". He was a tireless worker dedicated to his constituents. He was well spoken and when he spoke people listened because they knew what was being said had significance. I am sure many members here today, especially those of the class of '68, recall with a keen sense of pride Mr. A. B. Douglas who served Assiniboia so well from 1968 until his untimely passing in 1971.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Douglas was indeed a great Canadian and it is a privilege for me to follow him in this place. I suppose it was Ab Douglas more than any other person who demonstrated to me very graphically that this place can work and does work to meet the aspirations of Canadians; that things can be achieved here, and that a member of this House can with success strive toward a better way of life for the people he represents. It was that lesson, and more particularly the example of Ab Douglas, which helped persuade me eventually to get into this business in a full time way myself.

As a new member from western Canada on the government side of the House, Mr. Speaker, I would like to devote most of my time in this Throne Speech debate to a few thoughts about the role which western Canadians are playing in our great confederation, and about the legitimate aspirations which they have—I may say "which we have"—for the future.

It is necessary first of all to look back 100 years or more to the 1860s and 1870s, that bold and early period of nation building. The government of the day devised a total economic scheme to assist in the development of the country in that early period. Sir John A. Macdonald called it his national policy. It included agricultural and industrial