

[English]

I should also like to extend my personal welcome to Senator Eugene Forsey who, as long-time Director of Research for the Canadian Labour Congress, and twice a candidate for the CCF, was considered a supporter of the New Democratic Party. He has decided to sit here as a Liberal, which speaks volumes on the leftward drift of that party. Now Senator Croll need not feel he is the only socialist Liberal in this chamber. It is interesting to recall that Senator Forsey was not a foe of the Progressive Conservative party since the Diefenbaker Government appointed him to the Board of Broadcast Governors in 1958, a post which he held until 1962, when he resigned as a result of an acrimonious dispute over the question of establishing a state-owned T.V. station in Quebec City. It was this resignation, which occurred during the electoral campaign of 1962, which was misinterpreted and which, since it especially affected the constituency in which I was running, significantly shortened my career in the other place. I thus owe Senator Forsey a debt of gratitude for inadvertently and unwittingly having played a part in my appointment some months later to this hallowed chamber. From having supported the CCF and NDP, and having worked with a Progressive Conservative government, the senator has gone around the full circle now, for he has been called to the Senate by a Liberal Government, on whose side he sits. Under the circumstances, Senator Forsey cannot but feel assured that he is welcomed by everyone in this chamber.

After all, when Senator Casgrain and Senator Forsey support the Prime Minister, they will only be repaying him for the support he gave the NDP prior to 1965. Possibly it is for the same reason that the Prime Minister has been able to acknowledge their great qualifications in summoning them to this place.

In welcoming Senator Edward Lawson, I would say right from the start, unequivocally and emphatically, although he is going to sit as an Independent, the senators have no desire whatever to be unionized.

The other four new senators will serve to reinforce the Government party. Some say this is badly needed. Senators Lafond, McNamara, Heath and Molgat all appear to be eminently qualified for the posts they have been called upon to fill.

I feel I must give voice to the fact that I very much regret the Prime Minister's not having seen fit to appoint to the Senate people who would have joined the caucus of the official Opposition. Under our system and according to the present methods of operation, the official Opposition has very precise responsibilities in the activities of our chamber, but with our number as small as it is, it is far from easy for us adequately to carry out our duties. We have been finding it especially difficult to have representatives on all standing and special committees, representatives who would not have to divide their time among three and four committees.

Since the Government seems unwilling to alleviate the difficulties in which the official Opposition presently finds itself, it will become necessary for those who sit here

[Hon. Mr. Flynn.]

under labels other than Progressive Conservative—it might even become necessary for some who sit on the Government side, and some have shown good dispositions—to help in the opposition of this Government, if not to help the official Opposition itself. Without an effective Opposition, this chamber will become precisely what we are so often accused of being already—a useless anachronism.

I wish now to address myself to the topic of the Throne Speech which I have heard described by a variety of epithets, all very much synonymous with the word "twaddle".

It should be pointed out as a matter of interest, that there is a new approach used in this session's Speech from the Throne. The Government has tried in the speech to explain the reasons behind the pieces of legislation it plans to lay before Parliament during the present session. The speech should therefore be read and interpreted in the context of that list of bills which the Prime Minister tabled in the other place. However, as one peruses this list one cannot but conclude that the Throne Speech is more verbiage than it is policy, more woolly-headed idealism than clear direction, more vague possibilities than precise decisions. It could very well be that when the contents of these bills are unveiled, I might have to retract the harsh criticism to which I have just given vent. But tutored by the experience of this Government's past performances, I simply cannot bring myself to worry.

This is the third session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament. Therefore, the present Government has gone over the half-way mark of its normal tenure, and we are probably less than two years away from a general election. We are now in a fairly good position to assess in detail the performance of this Government and to surmise how long the Canadian people will continue to walk along the road of history with this Government. It is our educated guess, based on the road map given us in the Throne Speech, which shows that this Government is lost, that the people of Canada, when they are accorded the chance, will give this Government the boot.

No one looking back with an objective eye upon the situation that prevailed in Canada in 1968, when the present Prime Minister rode to victory on the crest of that wave of Trudeaumania which engulfed the nation, can help but notice that very little of the improvements in areas of public concern can be attributed to this Government. Rather, what is apparent is the fact that in many crucial areas the situation has significantly deteriorated as a result of the Government's inaction.

The Speech from the Throne says that the Government is concerned with the welfare of all Canadians, and that it will present a White Paper on income security as well as legislation to establish income security programs. First, are we to understand from this that we will have both a White Paper and legislation? In such a case, it would certainly mean that the legislation will not be of any real importance, and that it will probably be a mere review or adjustment of our present welfare system. In any event, whatever the Government intends to do, it is