

I have exceeded my time somewhat and therefore I must stop. If we can secure agreement among our people some other forms of taxation, excess profits taxes and so on. I am convinced that we can institute measures of control and we can organize our economy to benefit the Canadian people and to help us to do the job that we have to do and to take our share in defence of the democratic world.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, it is close to six o'clock, but I am not going to ask you to call it six o'clock because I feel that we should make use of every minute of our time.

Let me say at the outset that I appreciate this opportunity of joining with the other leaders on the opposition side of the house in extending to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) good wishes and felicitations on this the anniversary of his birthday. I did not rise on the orders of the day following the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) because I knew that this opportunity would be provided at some time today.

I find it a very pleasant duty today, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. In my opinion both speeches were sensible, down-to-earth attainments, and although fluent as both speakers were and very easy to listen to, the emphasis in each case was placed quite properly on the content rather than on the refinements of oratory. That is as it should be, in days like these when we are facing grave realities. It is unfortunate—and I am sure when I say this I speak for every member in the house—that at this time parliament meets under a cloud of world confusion and the fear of war. But, because it does so meet, it seems to me that this must be a time of courage, of mental honesty, straight thinking and plain speaking, without too much acrimony or recrimination. I believe the atmosphere and the dangers of these days make it necessary, too, that each of us representing the people across this country must do some earnest soul-searching. I shall try to do my part in facing up to the formula I have just laid out.

His Excellency's speech reminded me of what the clergyman said to the young bridegroom. I attended the wedding of a young friend of mine and, after the clergyman had tied the knot and while congratulations were being offered, he said to the bridegroom, "I think it is my prerogative in all such cases to give some good advice to both young people." To the bridegroom he said, "Young man, if you intend to get along well you

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must always tell your wife the truth." Then, turning to the young bride he said, "But not necessarily all of it."

As I view the address I feel it is straightforward enough in what it does contain. However, at a time like this I do not think it is enough just to have carefully guarded allusions to the dangers that the people of Canada, in common with other free peoples of the world, are facing. At a time like this it seems to me that nothing less than the whole truth is good enough. The Canadian people must be roused to the fullest possible realization of the dangers they face from external sources as well as from those lurking within our borders here at home. It is only when they do fully realize those dangers that we can expect our people to rise to that effort they must make if this and the other free nations of the world are to survive.

It is my conviction that nothing less than survival is at stake today, the survival of free nations and free peoples. So that I may be perfectly fair, let me state that in two places in His Excellency's address references are made to the seriousness of the world situation. In the third paragraph we find these words:

The increased menace in the Far East reinforces the mounting evidence that communist imperialism is determined to dominate the world by force or the fear of force, and that the only hope of maintaining peace with freedom lies in the rapid increase of the combined strength of the free nations.

And then at a later point we find this:

The policies of the government are designed to prevent war, but the dangers of the international situation and the magnitude of the defence effort required as a deterrent have, in the opinion of my ministers, created an emergency situation.

Well, nothing is said in the address, nor can I read between the lines anything that would give us a clear picture of the state of preparedness or of unpreparedness of the free nations of the world, including our own country, to meet the challenge of these times.

Therefore, since no other speaker has done so this afternoon, I feel it my duty to place before hon. members and the people of Canada how I view the whole situation and what I think of the state of unpreparedness in which we and the world find ourselves today. When I continue speaking after the dinner recess I intend to go further than a mere examination of our physical, material and military state of preparation. These, of course, are important; but, important as they are, there are other phases which are vastly more important.

What about our moral and spiritual preparedness? Here is where the soul-searching I mentioned a while ago comes in. In the