

*The Address—Mr. Simmons*

most other Canadians the real heroism involved in what the Royal Canadian Air Force is doing to help keep the forces of the United Nations in Korea supplied, and in evacuating the wounded.

The defence of North America so far as attack from Asia is concerned is established chiefly in Alaska, the Yukon and northern British Columbia. We must be strong north of Edmonton, and I realize that the Department of National Defence is endeavouring to make us strong in that region. When the world situation is clarified and the democratic peoples of the world no longer fear the outbreak of war I hope that the day will come when there will be a great commerce between our people in the north Pacific region and the peoples of Asia. I hope that a great stream of products may go from our northern communities, cereals, oil, metals of all kinds, fish, lumber and newsprint, to supply the needs of the people of Asia. I realize that when peace comes to Asia they will have products to sell us which we do not produce but of which they will have a surplus.

All my constituents will approve of the action being taken by the government to strengthen the forces that General Eisenhower is building up in Europe. The maintenance of peace fully justifies the utilization of the Canadian 27th brigade and sufficient air squadrons overseas, and as the time element is of importance the early action indicated by the government should meet with universal approval.

Turning to the other legislation we have before us, it appears to me that the main items deal with the development of transportation and communications in Canada. There is the St. Lawrence seaway, the strait of Canso causeway, the amendment to the Railway Act to lower the cost of transportation between the east and the west, the investigation of the advantages of the South Saskatchewan power and irrigation project, and the broadcasting legislation. Except for broadcasting, none of these developments concern my own constituency directly, but there is no part of Canada where transportation and communications are more vital than they are to the people of the north at this time.

We also know that the improvement of communications in any part of Canada helps to bind the country together, to make us more united and to speed up the development of our great resources. Therefore I do not think my constituents would expect me to do anything but support these proposals for strengthening the foundations on which our country can continue to grow.

On this occasion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to take some time to mention a few

matters relating to my constituency, which comprises an area of approximately 750,000 square miles. First I should like to express my pleasure and the satisfaction of the people of the Mackenzie district with respect to the legislation passed during the last session which added three elected members to the Northwest Territories council in addition to the five appointed members. This constitutional change, which brought about the election of some of the members of the Northwest Territories council, is an extension of true Canadian democracy to its territorial areas. There are solid grounds for the claim that the council should be wholly elected, as is that of the Yukon Territory, and I hope that it will not be too long before this is brought about.

I am happy to relate that the first election was held last month, and that residents of Indian and Eskimo blood were able to vote as citizens of Canada. It is also my definite opinion that the people of the Northwest Territories should be given the right to elect a member to represent them in the House of Commons instead of having to share a member with the Yukon Territory, as is now the case. Both the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories are going to play an increasingly important role in the industrial and economic life of the nation, and the area covered by both is too large to be represented properly in this house by only one member.

I am sure all hon. members will agree that it would be well to amend the Representation Act to provide for subdividing this vast riding and allowing two members, one for the Yukon Territory and one for the Northwest Territories.

The present financial agreement between the government of the Yukon Territory and the federal government expires this year. During its three-year term this agreement has led to a better understanding between the two governments, and it is my hope that the new agreement, when its terms have been finally settled, will take into consideration the accelerated tempo of development in the Yukon which is now becoming apparent. With the introduction of a more democratic government in the Northwest Territories a similar agreement between that government and the federal authorities will serve to assist in the orderly development of the mineral and other resources of that area.

If we examine the broad picture of Canada today we find that, while accepting and shouldering our responsibilities as a member of the United Nations in resisting aggression and in giving a helping hand to people less fortunate than ourselves, we ourselves are