

*The Address—Mr. Skey*

**Mr. Pinard:** I am pleased to find out that the hon. gentleman knows that. If he knows, he should have gone there. And if he had gone there with his Tory friends, I am telling him now that his friend from Nicolet-Yamaska would not be sitting in this house today.

I would point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that when the other day we saw the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska coming into this house arm and arm with the leader of the opposition and the Conservative member for Argenteuil (Mr. Heon), it was indeed a strange combination—an extremely sad scene, I should say.

**Mr. Hodgson:** You did not like it.

**Mr. Pinard:** We remember what he said during his campaign when he refused, in his radio addresses, to give his confidence to the one he today considers to be his own leader. But as was said at the time by some hon. members of this house—I think it was said by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) and also by our own Prime Minister—our Tory friends know quite well that one swallow does not make a summer. They will certainly find that out at the next general election, when it is time to go and ascertain whether the people are in favour of this government or not. They will find then, and we will find, that the government still enjoys the confidence of every province, of every race, and of the majority of the electors in this country.

**Mr. L. W. Skey (Trinity):** In view of the unfortunate nature of some of the remarks made by the hon. member who preceded me, Mr. Speaker, I feel that I should point out to the house now, for the sake of the record, that the leader of the opposition is not in his place and he was not present to hear what was said by the hon. member who has just spoken.

**An hon. Member:** He should have been.

**Mr. Skey:** I will not spend any more time on that matter. I should like to offer my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the motion for an address in reply. I congratulate them on making the best of what was not too good a speech from the throne. At the same time I should like to extend my personal welcome to the new members who have entered the house since we prorogued last June.

May I also add a word concerning a new constituency in Newfoundland. The name of the new constituency is Trinity-Conception. As the member for Trinity, Toronto, I shall be pleased to extend my personal welcome to a new member from another Trinity constituency as soon as that member is elected from that grand old dominion.

Before I go on with the general tenor of my remarks, which will deal with housing,

I should like to refer to another unrelated matter, namely, Christie Street hospital in Toronto which has just recently been handed over to the city. It has been renamed and is now called Lambert Lodge. It is about three years ago that I first made the suggestion that, when the hospital at Sunnybrook came into full operation, perhaps the government would see fit to extend the hospital facilities in our part of the province by handing Christie Street hospital back to the city of Toronto. I am extremely pleased that, through the tenure of two ministers of veterans affairs, two prime ministers and two different mayors of Toronto, my original suggestion has survived. I am pleased that it is now a fact that the city owns Christie Street hospital and that the facilities and hospital beds, which are so greatly needed at the present time, will be available to the people not only of our city but of York county and the part of the province surrounding the city. A few days ago I was happy to participate in the ceremonies, with several members of the city council and many of the hospital staff of Christie Street and the Prime Minister, at the time the key was handed over. It was following that ceremony that the Prime Minister spoke interestingly on the housing problem in Toronto. Judging from his remarks that day, he has changed his mind considerably from the stand he took on October 28, 1947, when he was reported by the *Ottawa Journal* to have said that he would have no part in passing any legislation to assist subsidized housing in any way. On the latter occasion the Prime Minister said, and I quote from the *Telegram* of Monday, February 21:

We feel that the proper policy for the federal government is one which is limited to extending financial assistance to individuals and corporations, whether home owners or landlords.

Because the remainder of my remarks will be devoted to housing, I do hope that the government are going to go forward in the general way outlined by the Prime Minister on that day, and that there will be the most vigorous prosecution of, and action on, the housing front in Canada that we have ever seen. I should like to see it equal in some ways the efforts put forth by industry during the war, because I think it is the most acute problem in the country.

According to the *Toronto Star* of Monday, February 14, the financial editor asked this question:

What has been accomplished in meeting the demand for adequate housing (since 1945)?

His answer was:

The simple answer to this question is "not very much." In fact, it is not unfair to say that we have failed and failed badly.