

but I think he must be if he can afford three steaks a day. One a day is the height of opulence for most of us.

Honourable senators, we have got to face the serious problem of our aging citizens. At the present time nothing is being done about it. True, we have marvellous social welfare programs. The other day I discovered that the total amount appropriated by the federal Government before the war for social welfare in all its varied branches and phases, amounted to \$60 million. Today it is somewhere in the region of one billion dollars. So we are doing as much as we possibly can in the general direction of caring for our people, but we are not doing all that we might particularly for the aged, and those who are "too old at 45", and have to get out of their jobs at 65.

It was said in the United States the other day that by 1970 one-half of the working force of the United States would be over 60 years of age. So the problem is not confined to Canada. Indeed, I think all the civilized countries of the world will have to look into this problem of the older people. Unless we want to become nations of preponderantly old folks, so-called, at 40 years and over, we shall have to change our present day estimate of old age.

Honourable members, when I first came into public life I was told that one of the primary requisites of public speaking was to stand up, speak up and shut up. I have stood up, I have tried to speak up, and I hope that the interval between standing up and shutting up has not been too long.

*(Translation):*

**Hon. Leonard Tremblay:** Honourable senators, in rising last year to propose, with eloquence and elegance, the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the honourable and most distinguished senator for the senatorial division of Sorel (Hon. Mrs. Jodoin) pointed out the fact that "for the first time in the history of this country, a woman is awarded the honour of moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne" and concluded quite reasonably that such an historical event "strengthens the fine traditions of our Canada, which advocate the freedom of one and all to express their opinions".

*(Text):*

I recall also the interesting and witty speech made last year, in seconding the motion of the honourable senator from Sorel, by the honourable senator from Fredericton (Hon. Mrs. Fergusson), who, a bit later in the same session, revealed herself to be a remarkable and most persuasive debater by obtaining

the amendment of a bill affecting certain categories of civil servants who claimed the liberty of deciding themselves whether the measure was in their interest or not.

Our colleagues who belong to the sex which our ancestors, ironically enough, qualified, with a somewhat protecting air, as "the weaker sex", showed, in the case to which I have alluded, first of all their strength; and, secondly, they demonstrated beyond any doubt that the freedom of speech which they enjoy may serve to safeguard in Canada other liberties which are dear to their fellow-citizens.

*(Translation):*

Things have changed a great deal since the days of the great Corneille, who could place on the lips of one of his characters, loudly applauded by his contemporaries:

Monsieur, quand une femme a le don de se taire  
Elle a des qualités au-dessus du vulgaire!  
(When a woman knows how to remain silent,  
Sir, she is endowed with uncommon gifts.)

The above quotation alone shows most clearly the progress accomplished in this respect since the glorious seventeenth century. In recognizing the happy results of the accession of women to public affairs, it is fitting, I think, to rejoice sincerely and to acknowledge the moderating and humanizing influence of women in politics . . . as well as elsewhere, for that matter.

*(Text):*

This year again the task of proposing the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was entrusted to a representative of the gentler sex, the honourable senator from Victoria (Hon. Mrs. Hodges). The masterful speech which we have just heard is proof that the choice of the authorities was both a happy and a judicious one. May I offer to our colleague from Victoria my warmest congratulations and express to her my very deep admiration. In so doing, I am voicing, I am sure, the feelings of all honourable members of this house.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Tremblay:** Mr. Speaker, in rising for the first time in this house, I would not like to be remiss in the most agreeable duty of congratulating you warmly upon your appointment to the high and honourable post which you occupy with so much dignity and ability. Because of your sense of justice, your tact and your experience in parliamentary procedure you are eminently qualified for the high duties entrusted to you, and I am particularly happy to add my tribute to the very just homage already paid to you by my honourable colleagues.