

The Address—Mr. Bell

as a grant in celebration of confederation and use it for an ordinary, every day office building in Fredericton which has no confederation or cultural significance of which I am aware. All I can say is that in the light of this decision and the one or two others to which I have referred, I hope that when the federal government gives money to New Brunswick their mind will be made up as to what is going to be done with the money. It is an expensive proposition for a poor province to match such grants, and if the province cannot afford it then let the province say so, but let us not have all this messing around and playing politics.

Another matter I want to mention concerns the rules of the house. I do not have anything of great significance to say. I should merely like to mention, without reflecting on the Chair in any way, that in my view the decision this afternoon to enforce the rule of relevancy was a good omen for the future. It was about 10 years ago that I came here and at that time Mr. Beaudoin was the Speaker. I admired him very much because he continually enforced the rules regarding relevancy and repetition to such an extent that after we had been here about six months there was nothing left to say and we were then all in a mood to go home.

Mr. Winch: He was the Speaker on black Friday, too.

Mr. Bell: I am talking about another matter. Regardless of other events that occurred, it is a fact that Mr. Beaudoin did try to enforce the rules regarding relevancy and repetition, and I think it had a good effect. Without reflecting in any way on the present situation, I merely say that in my humble opinion there has been a tendency over the years to get away from the rules respecting relevancy and repetition. The result is that after we have been here six months everything is so wide open that, as someone has said, you can come into the house and talk about your mother in law, no matter what the subject under discussion may be, and still be in order. I hope we will continue, as a measure of self discipline at least to accept the rules with regard to relevancy and repetition.

There is only one other matter to which I wish to refer. I noted in the speech from the throne that plans are going forward for the restoration of the Roosevelt home on Campobello island. We in New Brunswick were very pleased with our connection with the late President Roosevelt. We commend this measure, and we hope that all Canadians will share our pride in the preservation of this historic site.

[Mr. Bell.]

I told the hon. member for Medicine Hat that I would only speak until 5.45 p.m. Therefore I will conclude by saying that it was with considerable pleasure that we noted the appointment of the new senator from Saint John-Albert. We welcome him to the fold. At the same time I want to express the great loss that I feel in the death of the former senator from Saint John-Albert, a great personal friend of mine who died last year.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, first I should like to thank the immediately preceding speaker for sticking so closely to the schedule that he said he would. My first words in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne must be to congratulate both the mover and second order of the address.

During the approximately 60 days that hon. members had in which to travel to their home constituencies and visit with the people they represent I suppose most of us tried to pick up as much as we could of current public opinion. I think it is well for members to have an opportunity occasionally to go back to see the people they do in fact represent in the house, so that we can represent their sentiments and opinions as accurately as possible. As I am about 2,000 miles away from my constituency I have felt from time to time that there are occasions when I get into what might almost be called a vacuum. In other words, we are talking so much to each other and about each other here in the house that we are sometimes unable to pick up the sense of the views of the people we represent.

I think this last opportunity we had to visit our constituents was probably more valuable than any other recent opportunity; because as I travelled through my constituency I at least felt that the people were expressing opinions more in the national interest of Canada than opinions representing political party policy. I suppose this is perhaps true because they felt there was no election in the immediate future.

Most of the people in the constituency of Medicine Hat had one thing uppermost in their minds, and that was the question of national unity. I am sorry to say that most of the people there and in other parts of western Canada do not understand what the problem is. I think most of them reject the positions that have been taken by the extremists both in French Canada and in English speaking Canada. But at the same time, even though they are trying to understand the problem and to reconcile their thinking so that something can be done to bring national interests in all parts of the country closer together, it is still a fact that they do not