

tier), that the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Hon. Jules Léger, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

My first privilege as mover of the Speech from the Throne is to take this opportunity not only to extend the thanks of this House to His Excellency the Governor General but also to take this opportunity to congratulate him upon his appointment and wish him well as he begins his vice-regal duties.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stollery: Mr. Speaker, it is also appropriate to wish Madame Léger well in her new duties, so important to the success of this office.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stollery: Canada is fortunate to have in our vice-regal couple two people who have spent most of their adult lives in the honoured service of our country and who bring the experience and enlightenment of many years spent in a variety of often difficult and sensitive diplomatic postings abroad. I am sure that I express the feelings of all members of this House in wishing them well.

[Translation]

May I also be allowed, Mr. Speaker, to express my gratitude and, I am sure, that of all Canadians, to Mr. and Mrs. Michener for the dash with which they revived those traditions it behoves the Governor General of Canada and his wife to personify.

I am sure I speak on behalf of all the hon. members in expressing my thanks to two very likeable Canadians for a job well done. May they now enjoy many years filled with joy and serenity, assured that they will always be dear to the hearts of all Canadians.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) selected me to do this job of moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I was in central America.

An hon. Member: Where was he?

Mr. Stollery: He was in his office in Ottawa.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stollery: If hon. members would listen for a moment, they might learn something. Often when I want a fresh look at things I like to go out and think a little bit, as we all do once in a while. I get my bike out and pedal off to see if the old stamina is still there. And it is. I often do it to take a look around, and I would recommend it to some of my hon. friends opposite.

I carry in my saddle-bag a bundle of the latest statistical material relating to the countries I am going through, in

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this instance the countries of the central American common market, so that I have some indication of what I am looking for and what it means. For example, when in the charming country of Guatemala my curiosity leads me along country roads through villages and picturesque countryside, I am aware that one-third of the population lives totally outside of the money economy. I am aware that the average annual income is \$350. I am aware that last May, 17 persons were killed when soldiers tried to prevent 1,000 landless peasants from taking possession of the land. For cycling is not just an exercise and sweating around in the hot tropical sun; cycling brings back something that in Canada we have lost because we spend so much of our time in automobiles cut off from the outside. It brings back that perspective that is found only in the art of smelling things; and there is a great deal to smell around here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stollery: You have to smell the fresh manure in the early morning streets from the horses and ponies. I am sure many of us remember that same smell here in Canada many years ago. One better understands the value of Canada's recent \$5 million loan to the government of Belize when you smell the urine in the tenements and the raw sewage that flows through every creek and every barrio.

I have found that when travelling in a car or bus you tend to get back in and ride on to some air-conditioned hotel and very quickly forget some of the realities of the outside world. But on a bicycle you understand a little better, particularly as the tropical day gets hotter and hotter. The rutted, rotten dirt roads mean a great deal more when you choke on the dust as the sugar cane trucks swirl by. I recommend this to some hon. members opposite. Ten or 12 hours a day like that for a few days is very good for the soul.

This, Mr. Speaker, was the environment I was in when I was contacted and given by the Prime Minister this honourable job of moving the address in reply to the throne speech. Of course, it was an honour for me to be selected for this job, but it was an honour that made me reflect, as I grabbed my stuff and headed for home, what a wonderful country Canada is, a country where an average man like myself can become a member of parliament, spend a year and a half in the most interesting work that I can think of in the world and meet some of the finest people in this country, the other members of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Stollery: For I do believe that the highest honour to which a Canadian can aspire is that of being elected by his fellow citizens to the House of Commons. But, Mr. Speaker, it is also a heavy responsibility.

[English]

It is traditional, Mr. Speaker, in this type of speech to talk about one's constituency. That is well known. As the member for Spadina, I have the good luck to represent one of the most interesting areas in Canada, downtown Toronto. The fact is that Spadina riding is almost synonymous with downtown Toronto. It is difficult even to visit