

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

perish. But for Canada, where there is diminishing trade, the vision also dims. The policy of this government, enunciated in the speech from the throne, does scant justice to the importance of this particular consideration.

I move, therefore, seconded by the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier):

That the following words be added to the address: "We respectfully represent to Your Excellency that a high level of employment and prosperity in Canada requires a high and expanding level of international trade; and that this will be promoted more effectively by vigorous measures for the expansion of trade with all countries than by efforts to divert from one country to another."

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to relive the election campaign in any way, but for a moment sir, you will allow me to say that when I heard applause coming from the other side of the house I forgot that there had been recent events. I must say I congratulate my friend, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson), upon the manner of his presentation. I shall deal with those matters that were not dealt with recently because, after all, I cannot be more in agreement with my hon. friend than when he said that when there is no vision the people perish. Mr. Speaker, that has equal application to all of us, to political parties as well as to nations.

One of the great and abiding characteristics of our system of government is that spirit which was exhibited here this afternoon by my hon. friend. I say this in all sincerity. It is what distinguishes us from those who do not understand our parliamentary system of government. It was fine and generous, and if I may say so, revealed a delightful touch of that attitude of sportsmanship which is characteristic of our system and not foreign to him.

I am not going to become involved in acrimonious discussion today. I am going to refer to what we have undertaken to do. My hon. friend I am sure will allow me to say this. I agree that the speech from the throne that was read yesterday by Her Majesty's representative was different from those we used to hear read in the past. In this speech we did not have His Excellency deal with generalities. We had His Excellency ask parliament to direct its attention to those things which we believe are necessary and of immediate importance for the benefit of the people of Canada.

I join with my hon. friend in the words of congratulations he uttered to the mover (Mr. Lafreniere) and the seconder (Mr. Nielsen) who are both young men. Both revealed unusual ability and capacity. Both, as he said,

[Mr. Pearson.]

have youth and though separated by many thousands of miles, have that common Canadianism that brings us together. I say that the strength of parliament depends on a continuing infusion of new and able men and women representative of the basic races and the many other racial origins of this country.

I want also to say a word of congratulation to you, Mr. Speaker, and more so to parliament in having you to preside over parliament during the next several years. I wish also to say a word regarding the Deputy Speaker, the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Sevigny) whose father was a distinguished member of this house many years ago. His father today is one of the chief justices in the province of Quebec but in 1914 became Deputy Speaker of this house occupying the same position that his son will occupy in this parliament. That is one of the matters to which my hon. friend referred, that continuity, that attitude of Canadians. Regardless of the part of Canada from which they come—whether from Yukon or from the province of Quebec as do the mover and the seconder or from other parts of Canada—there is that spirit of unity and common dedication and, I might also say, vision of the kind of Canada that we hope to achieve in this chamber by our activities and our actions in the days ahead.

I do not intend to speak at great length. I am going to refer to some of the statements made by my hon. friend. Every opportunity will be given to the ministers of the particular departments to which reference has been made to deal with the problems peculiar to their respective departments. In view of the circumstances that have already been outlined here this afternoon, however, our job is to get down to work immediately. I do not intend to traverse the fields of matters peculiarly the responsibility of individual ministers. They will be placed before this house during the days ahead. However, I must say that when my hon. friend referred to some of the suggestions for the betterment of parliament I recalled the speech in question. I must say that was one of the finer parts of his speech as he quoted the expression of my views at that time. With the warmest of good feeling I suggest that had those who at one time sat over here read that speech in 1949 and followed it some of the changes that have to be made now in order to make parliament effective would not have been necessary. After all, the supremacy of the parliamentary system over all others demands as its cornerstone intelligent discussion and criticism. I say to my hon. friend that I liked his attitude this afternoon in moving immediately an amendment of non-confidence. That action indeed was in keeping