

To meet our obligations our government must have adequate authority from parliament in order to proceed with the least possible delay. One of the steps necessary is the creation of a new department to procure defence supplies for ourselves and for our allies. We all realize that our defence program must be integrated with that of our good friend and neighbour, the United States of America. Our defence programs will obviously involve greatly increased spending and therefore an increase in taxes. Increased taxes are never easy to bear, but it will be the duty of hon. members to give consideration to a fair application of these taxes.

At the recent conference of the commonwealth prime ministers in London, our own Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) took an important part. These nine commonwealth leaders, who represent one-quarter of the world's population extending over all continents and oceans, agreed to strengthen their defences and to stand for peace. In order to promote real peace they urged that the wounds of the last war must be healed; that settlements with Germany and Japan should be made with speed; that any feasible arrangements for a frank exchange of views with Russia and China would be welcomed.

We are deeply grateful for the efforts put forth by the commonwealth members, and by our own Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) in particular, directed towards obtaining a cessation of hostilities in Korea. They also stated that the peace and prosperity of the free world cannot be assured while millions live in poverty. Contribution on our part towards the Colombo plan is a practical evidence of our government's effort to remove one of the causes of war. Some of us may regard war as inevitable; but a determined and resolute rapidly-arming western world might well be a deterrent. At the same time we must try to achieve an honourable peace, and it is possible that it may only be achieved by the same zeal and energy that we put into our defence program.

Most of the western world has been prosperous. Canada, for instance, has enjoyed the most prosperous year in her history. We produced more, earned more and spent more than ever before. At the same time, in parts of Europe, Asia and Africa, people died of starvation and millions more barely eked out an existence. Here, to my mind, is the real threat to our security; for poverty, disease and want breed wars. So long as these conditions continue to exist, there can be no security for us; for they provide a fertile

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field for communism. We know that communism is not the answer; but people in dire need do not question the source of aid, however meagre or fraudulent.

If we accept our responsibilities towards the underprivileged people of the world and if we actively try to promote the brotherhood of man, we of the free nations may yet achieve the peace which now seems so far distant. War may not be inevitable unless we so regard it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend congratulations to our Prime Minister, who tomorrow will celebrate his sixty-ninth birthday. Long may he be spared in good health to carry on in his high calling.

(Translation):

Mr. Maurice Breton (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, it is a fearful privilege for a new member to be called upon to second the address in reply. I am going through that experience today and I must recognize that the tremor felt by my predecessors, under similar circumstances—as evidenced by *Hansard*—was not purely academic.

It gives me great pleasure, however, to second the address of my colleague, the new member for Welland (Mr. McMillan), in reply to the speech by His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament.

I wish, at the outset, to thank the Prime Minister and his colleagues for the honour they have bestowed both upon myself and upon the riding of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm in asking me to second the address, and I trust I may be able to perform my task as brilliantly as the hon. member for Welland. May I offer the latter my sincere congratulations both on his speech and on his recent election to parliament. I would like also to take this opportunity to thank my friends from my riding who came here today in such great number to support their new representative in his first endeavour.

In a statement to the press, following the adjournment of the house, the right hon. the Prime Minister used kind words with regard to my election by acclamation on October 3 in the riding of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm. I am very pleased to point out that this result is an unequivocal tribute paid by the electors of my riding to the prestige of the right hon. the Prime Minister and to that of the present government as well as to the high reputation of the new leader of the Quebec provincial Liberal party, Mr. Georges-Emile Lapalme, who preceded me in this house.