

Mr. Hollingworth: The healthy economic climate in Canada during the past few years has been the envy of the world, and my submission is that a great deal of the credit should go to the minister and his colleagues.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would ask your indulgence to refer to my own constituency of York Centre. The population of the township of North York, most of whom live in York Centre, increased between 1923 and 1943 from 6,000 to 24,000, but between 1943 and 1953 the population jumped to 110,000, or an increase of 86,000 people in ten years.

In spite of this amazing growth there are still great tracts of vacant land to be developed, and I feel that the new legislation to encourage house building will enable more Canadians, and particularly more people in York Centre, to buy more homes with smaller down payments and longer repayment privileges. This legislation is therefore not only financially sound but socially desirable, and should be enthusiastically supported.

May I say that the government is still pressing vigorously for the implementation of the St. Lawrence seaway and power development project. This means a great deal to us in the greater Toronto area in the fields of transportation, commerce and hydroelectric development, and we are anxious that the government continue its policy of the past three years of doing everything possible to hasten the commencement of this work.

(Translation):

I would like to conclude my speech with a few words in French.

I am proud and happy to be able to speak the language of my French-speaking fellow citizens, in this House of Commons. The contribution made to our Canadian culture by those qualities peculiar to both our ethnic groups, not only emphasizes but clearly demonstrates the realization of a truly Canadian nationality.

And there is no finer example of this than that given by one who is master of both official languages of this country, one who is the living symbol of this culture which is at once French and English but which we nevertheless desire to be Canadian—a goal which we will reach through understanding and the brotherhood of all Canadians—our Prime Minister.

(Text):

I have not commented on the speech from the throne other than to refer to the legislation for disabled persons. This session promises to be an interesting one with many subjects to discuss and problems to solve, and I join with all members in expressing the hope that we may promptly and efficiently

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discharge our responsibilities to those who elected us, and that we shall uphold the great traditions of the Canadian parliament.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Villeneuve):

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, C. H., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal 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.

(Translation):

Mr. Georges Villeneuve (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, it so happens that life has sometimes pleasant surprises in store for us. On August 10 last, the electors of the constituency of Roberval chose me as their representative in this parliament and already, on this 13th of November, I am called upon to deliver my first speech, in seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne, which was moved by my hon. friend, the new member for York Centre (Mr. Hollingworth), whom I wish to congratulate most particularly on the brilliancy of his task.

My gratitude goes first of all and most particularly to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and his colleagues of the cabinet for the honour they have bestowed upon me and, indirectly, to all my electors of the constituency of Roberval. They thought perhaps that the youthfulness of a member, added to that of the constituency which he represents, would fit in harmoniously with the new legislation announced in the speech from the throne.

On August 10 last, the electors of this country endorsed by their votes the government which has presided over their destinies for 18 years already.

I thought I should draw attention to such a record. If the right hon. Prime Minister permits me, I would add that the Canadian people have been touched by his clear, accurate and sincere demonstrations as regards the administration of the country, while continuing to promote the movement of national unity which he has traced since he acceded to the high position of trust which he holds. As Canadians of various origins try to know each other better, they get along together better and Canada grows in the same measure. Unity in diversity, a seed of social peace in Canada, is admired the world over and constitutes one of the main reasons of the influence of our beautiful and great country in the international sphere. The right hon. Prime Minister, who has been the promoter of that