

The Address—Mr. Regier

Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, on August 10 the people of my electoral division did me the honour of electing me as their spokesman in this, the twenty-second parliament of the Dominion of Canada.

In the campaign in my constituency there were five candidates, each of whom offered his opinions on the state of the nation, as he saw it, and each of whom offered a set of proposals for the endorsement of the electorate. The very fact that the electors of that constituency sent me to Ottawa has placed upon me the obligation to say in this House of Commons the same things that I said during the campaign to the people back home, and events since August 10 have only served to emphasize the arguments I used at that time.

I should like to begin by offering my heartiest congratulations to the government on its recent re-election. It has been said, and I think with some justification, that the government is able to win elections in Canada to the degree to which it finds itself able to adopt the recommendations given to it from this section of the house. This need not come as a surprise to anyone because we, in this section, have our program decided annually by the rank and file of the people. Our election candidates are selected in a democratic manner by the people. Necessarily our election expenses are paid on a voluntary basis by those thousands who support us, and with no strings attached.

I have always held great admiration for the way in which our leaders, C.C.F. members in provincial legislatures and also those in the federal house, are able to say what they want to say and what they think ought to be said. They do not have to keep in mind any allegiance to anyone, except to those thousands of people back home who have sent them to parliament.

Let me say at once that on election day in my riding no less than 400 people took the day off from work, many at the cost of a day's wages, and worked all day long for the election of the candidate of their choice. This was no accident, and I take great pride in stating it. I do not mind letting the opposition candidates know how we won the election, because I know that no candidate in any other section of the house will ever be able to obtain the voluntary services of 400 workers on election day.

Yes, we are the people; and we therefore know the people. Naturally we hope the day is not far distant when all people in Canada from coast to coast are going to look at the record of the C.C.F. and place their confidence

[Mr. Harkness.]

in our leader. Then, by their votes, they will show that no longer are they satisfied to eat the crumbs that fall from the table, but that they want to come on in and sit at the table to enjoy the full fruits of their labours.

The coronation of our Queen, Elizabeth II, Mr. Speaker, was a most important occasion for me. Elizabeth I symbolized what has been known as the golden age. Her reign saw the beginning of man sailing out on to new seas, new seas literally and new seas of ideas. At that time the people of that little island led the world in new adventures, and ever since the people of that little island have made one of the greatest contributions to mankind that any nation has ever made. As I look over the international situation as it now is, I again have reason to believe that once more the people of that little island will for many centuries lead the world.

The people of the British Isles and her adopted sons overseas—and I might add her Scandinavian relatives—again seem about to embark on a vast sea of exploration and the finding of new ideas. They are finding out the secret of how men can live together in harmony and how they can develop the things of the earth to their benefit. They are learning to free themselves economically, and I have every confidence that under another Elizabeth a new day is now dawning and that she will lead the world to new heights of human achievement. I have every confidence that we in Canada have every desire to join with the peoples of the British Isles, of the Scandinavian countries and of the other commonwealth nations in this wonderful new adventure. I hope we will not be led astray in Canada by what to me is a foreign sodapop civilization or by a foreign "OGPU" civilization. I hope we shall do what we can to build a distinctly Canadian civilization, based on our great and varied cultural background, and ally ourselves with our sister nations of the commonwealth in the great adventure to which I have referred.

I should like to compliment the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) on his address to the house. I sensed in that address a return of the Progressive Conservative party to the old Tory party, and I admire him for it because, as I see it, it is the only alternative to progress these days. It is the only salvation for the survival of that organization. I do admit that a party of consolidation is necessary. In a democracy we do need a party of progress and a party of consolidation, sometimes symbolized by the red tie and the blue tie. The red tie, which I believe at one time the Liberal party in Canada claimed to possess, away back in 1837, has by now long since faded into a miserable blur. The colour