

The Address—Mr. A. R. Smith

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, if I may, I will answer the hon. member's question. As is known, this royal commission has been looking into the situation here and abroad. We expect a detailed written report by that commission towards the end of November.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. A. R. SMITH
AND SECONDED BY MR. NEREE ARSENAULT

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by Her Majesty The Queen at the opening of the session.

Mr. A. R. Smith (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, it is in all humility that I rise in my place for the first time in this house to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne by Her Very Gracious Majesty. I do not suppose that anyone has, for a few years, walked into such an anticlimatical situation after such an interesting question period. I would assume, if I were so naive, that perhaps most of the questions for this coming session have now been asked.

In all humility and in all seriousness I should like to say how much I appreciate the invitation of the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) to move this address. I recognize, of course, that this is an honour which is not bestowed on the individual but rather on the constituency that he represents. May I therefore say to him and to hon. members of this house, on behalf of the constituency of Calgary South, that I greatly appreciate this opportunity.

I think it can be said that we should not lose sight of the fact that there is today still in this house and in this national capital a feeling of extreme jubilation as a result of the opening of parliament for the first time by a reigning monarch. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that there are not enough adjectives to describe the importance of this milestone in our Canadian history. I think it is difficult to do so without understating its significance. Can any man or woman who viewed the proceedings, either personally or through the magic of television, not say that this was one of the great emotional moments in his or her life?

Unquestionably it will be told and retold for generations to come that on that day of October 14, 1957, I saw Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth open the Canadian House of Commons.

I have said to myself what is it that makes this occasion so important to us? It is not, I suggest, just that it is another first for Canada, but rather that it binds this country into the senior membership which it occupies

in the commonwealth. Great though the resources and reserves of this country are, I suggest that our greatest treasure is still that membership which we hold in the commonwealth of nations.

I would like if I may to pay my respects to certain members of this house. First to you. I realize that I am speaking as one Albertan to another, but no doubt the polished debonair manner which is to your credit is an earmark of your upbringing in eastern Canada. I suggest further that your compromising and friendly attitude is indeed the trademark of the fact that you were born in Red Deer, Alberta. I know that the members of this house join with me in congratulating you in your elevation to your high office.

I would like at the same time to congratulate Canada's Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker). I believe that whatever else Canadians say of this generation they will certainly record that one of the greatest lessons in personal achievement has been taught in that this man from the soil of Saskatchewan has established in this country a reputation second to none. We are indeed, regardless of where we sit in this house, proud of the Prime Minister of Canada. I should like also to congratulate the members of his cabinet on their elevation to high office, and in spite of the suggestion that they might not occupy those offices, I believe they have done so very admirably.

May I be presumptuous enough to congratulate the new members of this house upon their election, like myself, for the first time. I can tell them now from some personal experience that the terror which overcomes you in contemplating your maiden speech, after you are on your feet reduces itself to straight fear. Speaking as one rookie to another I would like to say that each and every one of you may be assured that regardless of where you sit each one of us will be in your cheering section.

I would now turn to the business of this house and, in particular, to the assignment that has been given to me this afternoon. I think it is an accepted part of tradition that the mover of the throne speech compliment the government on its legislation as outlined in the throne speech. Let it be clearly understood by those who might be disappointed that I shall not do otherwise, that I intend to do exactly that.

It is a fact that the majority of these were the policies or the outline of a program which a very substantial number of Canadian people recently endorsed, as a matter of fact as recently as June 10 last. I am happy to see that Canada will play an important part in

[Mr. Pickersgill.]