

Hon. Lazarus Phillips moved, seconded by Hon. Raymond Eudes:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this house to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:

To His Excellency, the Right Honourable Roland Michener, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, upon whom has been conferred the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Senate 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.

Honourable senators, I pray your indulgence as this is the first time that I have had the privilege of speaking to you in this chamber.

[*Translation*]

First of all, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the honourable Senator Deschatelets on his appointment. He succeeds the honourable Senator Sydney J. Smith who has discharged so admirably the arduous duties of that office.

Our new speaker has already proved his great qualities as an individual and as a member, qualities which, enhanced by his personal charm, guarantee that under his guidance, our debates will proceed according to the highest traditions of this august chamber.

Indeed, those who most deserve to be congratulated are all the honourable senators.

[*English*]

We start this session with a new Government Leader—a world renowned statesman and one of Canada's most illustrious sons. He succeeds Senator John J. Connolly, a colleague beloved by us, whose guidance in the past was of invaluable benefit to all in this chamber.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Phillips (Rigaud): In the person of Senator Paul Martin we shall have the advantage of direction and guidance based

upon unrivalled continuous experience for many years in the public arena.

In recent months the Canadian electorate has expressed its views as to the constitution of the membership of the other house, with consequent Government changes. As a result of such election, we are assured of political stability.

The cry for Canadian unity has resounded loudly through the land, and we in this chamber, together with those in the other chamber, are now called upon to give effect to the views of the electorate. This is not the time for smug self-assurance on the part of the victors, or for wakes on the part of the non-victors. What is required is an inspired desire and will to proceed to the performance of great tasks.

In this connection, knowing, as I do, the love of country shared by Senator Flynn and his colleagues, and without derogation from Senator Flynn's high responsibilities as Leader of the Opposition, we can look forward to a very serious session of deliberations, for the consideration of legislation and other matters.

I thank my Leader (Hon. Mr. Martin) for the honour accorded me in moving the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I come, honourable senators, from an ancient and proud race, and I practise a religion which has not been unconnected with the spread of civilization on this planet. I should like to feel that when the Right Honourable Lester Pearson recommended my appointment to this chamber he had in mind giving recognition to the ethnic group to which I belong. I hope honourable senators will agree with me that in the development of our beloved Canada this group has contributed its fair share to the country's communal, political, economic, cultural and intellectual activities.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Phillips (Rigaud): The Speech from the Throne, awaited with great interest by the entire nation, not only displays the qualities of leadership of our Prime Minister, in co-operation with his colleagues, but also reflects the serious study given to the more immediate pressing problems facing us. It is hoped that the legislation which will be submitted for our consideration will do much to eliminate these problems and, in the result, to bring about a higher standard of living and more assured prospects of orderly development in a peaceful state.