

The Address—Mr. Simmons

Seconded by the hon. member for Yukon-Mackenzie River (Mr. Simmons), I have the honour to move:

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

To His Excellency Field Marshal the Right Honourable the Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Military Cross, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it Please Your Excellency:

We, His 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.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that this special session will occupy a prominent place in the history of this great and beautiful Canada of ours.

(Text):

Mr. J. A. Simmons (Yukon-Mackenzie River): Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General expressing thanks for the gracious speech delivered by him to both houses of parliament, I, as parliamentary representative of the people of the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie river district of the Northwest Territories, wish to express my appreciation of the honour paid to my constituents by this action and also my personal pride that at this particular moment I have the privilege of speaking for these people. I know when he appointed me to second the address the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) intended to pay a compliment to the constituency I have the honour to represent in this house which is the largest in area in all Canada.

My constituents, like all other Canadians, have been gravely concerned over the state of health of His Majesty the King. I should like to join with the mover of the address, the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Cauchon), in saying how pleased we all have been with the daily bulletins which have indicated a steady improvement in the health of His Majesty. We all hope that he will soon be restored to good health and continue to reign over us for many years.

The people of Canada have been honoured and are proud to welcome to their shores Their Royal Highnesses, The Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. I like to

[Mr. Cauchon.]

think, too, that the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) realized that the people of the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie district of the Northwest Territories would be disappointed that our royal visitors could not include some part of that vast territory in their present visit. Speaking for my constituents, we hope that the royal couple have such a wonderful time in Canada that they will want to come back again to see more of the country, and that when they do they will plan to visit the land of the midnight sun because there is no other place where there is so much scenery to see. It is also our hope that the assurance of our loyalty, which I am delegated to express, will in some small measure give them and Their Majesties strength and confidence to lead us in the days ahead.

Before proceeding further I should like to tender my congratulations to my colleague, the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Cauchon), for his excellent speech. His eloquence and the manner of his delivery typify the ability and ease with which our fellow Canadians of French descent enrich the proceedings of this house.

Last June the Prime Minister told us that when we came back in October we would have a busy session before us. I do not think anybody quite realized how busy it would be until we listened to His Excellency's speech on Tuesday and heard all the important legislation with which the government is expecting us to deal. I know that my constituents will expect us to get down to business in this house and deal with this very large program, and I am sure that is the view of people all over Canada. We should not need to take too much time with the old age pension bill because all parties in the house are on record as approving it. It is a tremendous forward step along the road the Liberal party has been following over the years, and the new universal pensions which are to start on January 1 will give citizens of Canada who have reached the closing years of their lives a measure of security as great as is provided in any country in the world.

We are proud too of what our Canadian forces have done in Korea. Both the navy and the army had a growing share in the fighting there, and they have behaved as Canadians always do. But I should like to say a special word for the unsung heroes of the Royal Canadian Air Force who have been flying steadily for all these long months on the long hop to Tokyo without a single accident. In my constituency, where air travel is so important, we appreciate perhaps better than