

little sniping from here and there, the people at large realize that we are devoted to our country and determined to do what we can in the national interest. That at any rate is my conviction after having been for sixteen years a member of this body. But the higher our position the greater our responsibility to tackle this problem of inflation energetically, with a determination to bring home to the government the seriousness of the situation. The minor measures that have been taken so far may do some good, but they are neither drastic nor thoroughgoing. The problem must be attacked with the same kind of determination that we showed in two world wars, especially now that we are confronted with the most insidious challenge to liberty that any people has ever known. So let us carry to every person in the country the message that the cost of living must be reduced; let us prevail upon the government to take action to bring it down, or there will be but one fate in store for this country—a "bust" at the end of the road.

**Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson:** Honourable senators, I need hardly say that I concur in what has been said by those who preceded me with regard to the recent illness of His Majesty, and that I join with all the members of this chamber, indeed, I believe with all people throughout the world, in the feeling of relief that his recovery seems to be so rapid, and in the hope that it will be permanent. It has been a great satisfaction to us to receive His Majesty's personal message in response to the expression of good wishes which you, Mr. Speaker, transmitted to him on our behalf earlier this session.

In a modest way I, like others who have spoken, participated in the ceremonies attending the visit to Canada of Their Royal Highnesses, and I am delighted that they are receiving everywhere so warm and enthusiastic a welcome.

May I compliment the honourable senator from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Vien) on his speech in moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne? His long parliamentary experience and wide knowledge of business matters were reflected in a very able and comprehensive address. The honourable senator from Regina (Hon. Mr. Wood), who seconded the motion, dealt primarily, as did the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) with a matter of particular interest to both honourable senators, namely, crop conditions in the West. It is a subject that I am not in a position to discuss; but I am sure that all members are glad to have had him explain it in such a lucid and concise manner. It also gave me great pleasure to

hear the speech of the leader of the opposition. I have little to say about it in the way of criticism, chiefly, perhaps, because there was little in it with which any thinking person could disagree. Regarding his references to the last four by-elections, I have made no such analysis as he did of the probable effects of those contests on the future of this government. To what extent the results were due to the causes he indicated I do not know. But the particular party which is represented on this side of the house has come to look upon the loss of by-elections before a general election as a good omen. We lost several important ones before the last general election.

In more serious vein, I agree with him that the general problems outlined in the Speech from the Throne bring in their train issues of much gravity. It has been pointed out, and I need not enlarge on the matter at any length, that the principle of old age pensions has been pretty generally accepted. I agree with what was said, as I recall, by the leader of the opposition himself, that the chief point of contention will be the financial provisions for making this legislation effective.

The report of the Royal Commission on Transportation and the legislation arising therefrom are matters to which, I am sure, the most earnest and careful consideration will be given. It is proposed that the bills which are being introduced in the other place shall be referred to committee for study. No doubt, procedure in committee will be much the same as that followed in connection with—for example—the legislation relative to bankruptcy: evidence will probably be received from those whom the various provisions may affect.

Later in the session I shall give notice of a resolution with respect to the participation of Canada in the NATO arrangements. This in itself is nothing new, but the simple truth is that it is a momentous question, charged with great problems which I am sure will continue to evidence themselves as time goes on.

Like my honourable friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig), I should like to say a few words about inflation. I agree with the honourable gentleman that this is one of the most important questions confronting Canada and the whole western world today, and that if we are unable to remedy the situation it may eventually result in a condition which would raise grave doubts as to the success of our way of life as compared with Communism. I do not find fault with my honourable friend for asking the government what it is going to do about inflation. I suppose this question