

Nobel Peace Prize—Mr. Pearson

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to wait until the opportunity came, but my hon. friend has preceded me and all I can do is say that I intended to rise for the purpose of saying that the recognition of the achievements of those who are politically opposed is not incompatible with my concept of parliamentary life. It is one of the joys of our system of parliamentary government, indeed it is of the essence for its preservation, that members in our parliaments, regardless of the differences that separate them, remain Canadians first.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I want to say that the announcement yesterday of the award of the Nobel prize to one who has been a political opponent but a personal friend is a tribute to him and an honour to Canada. The award of the Nobel prize for peace has come to certain people on this continent on a number of previous occasions and the naming of those who have received that award is evidence of their respective contributions to the laying of those foundations and to the doing of those things which are necessary for the preservation of the achievement of that ideal of world peace which after all is the dominating motive of all of us in the free world.

Among those who have received the award is Elihu Root, a long-time secretary of state of the United States and a great lawyer whose contribution to peace played its part in the building of a system of international law applicable to the nations of the world, in a like manner that the law binds each and every one of us equally under the British system of government and of law.

Another who received the award was a former president of the United States, Mr. Woodrow Wilson, who in his day and generation dreamed dreams and hoped hopes that, while they were not achieved in his day nor have they been since, nonetheless were landmarks of advancement in the preservation and maintenance of those things from which peace can be built.

Then another was the Hon. Frank Kellogg, also a secretary of the United States, who in 1926 advanced, along with Mr. Briand of France, a pact which in his day was believed to have achieved peace for all generations.

These three have been the predecessors in North America of my hon. friend as holders of the award for peace by the Nobel foundation. The award to the hon. member is one, as I said in the beginning, that brings honour to him and it is with the warmest of good

[Mr. McIvor.]

feelings and the most sincere of good wishes that I congratulate him on the honour that has come to him.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Algoma East): Mr. Speaker, I have quite literally lost my voice from saying thank you yesterday and today, but I think I have enough left to express my grateful appreciation of the words of the hon. and venerable member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor) and for the very kind, indeed very generous, words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker). I realize, as I have already said outside this house, that the consideration which must have governed the committee in making this award to me revolved around the fact that I was the representative of Canada at the United Nations and other international meetings where so many of us were doing our best for peace and security in this troubled world.

I know that in that sense I have had very special opportunities because of my position. I know also that I would not have been able to have made the most of those opportunities had it not been for the support which I felt that in the main I was receiving from the Canadian people; the support in the main of this house in the objects we were pursuing and, perhaps I may say, without impropriety, the friendship, advice and leadership which I always received from my leader in the work I was trying to do.

In this sense the award was a Canadian award, and I am very proud indeed to have been the particular Canadian chosen through force of happy circumstances to receive it.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENERGY**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, by leave of the house I would like to make an announcement at this time, and to say that the governor in council today established a royal commission to inquire into and to make recommendations concerning a number of matters relating to energy and sources of energy that fall within the jurisdiction of parliament.

The commission is to be composed of Mr. Henry Borden, Q.C., of Toronto; Mr. J. Louis Levesque, Montreal; Mr. George Britnell of Saskatoon; Mr. Gordon Cushing of Ottawa; Mr. Robert Howland of Halifax, and Mr. Leon Ladner of Vancouver.

I will say no more regarding this matter than this: Mr. Borden is known in all parts of Canada; Mr. Levesque is a financier in Montreal who is well known, not only in his