

respect. They are kind and generous; and they are good Christian folk who will give little consideration to any of the "isms" by means of which it is sought to supplant Christianity with materialism. I am sure that any visitors to our district will invariably receive a kindly welcome; and naturally it is my personal feeling that those who have not had the privilege of visiting it have missed a good deal. I could say much more in praise of our section of the province, which extends as far as Lake Huron, but I do not wish to use an occasion of this kind to do any boasting of our particular district. I may be allowed however, to add that I regard it as a privilege and an honour to have had the opportunity of representing such a splendid district, and such admirable people.

It seems to me that at the opening of this session it is right and proper that we should pause to pay our tribute of loyalty and affection to His Majesty the King, and to his gracious consort Queen Elizabeth. We have always appreciated and admired the sincerity which has characterized Their Majesties in the discharge of the duties of their high office. This quality, and their kindness to their people, have touched our hearts in a very definite way. I am sure that every Canadian citizen is most happy to know that His Majesty is gradually recovering from the serious physical disorder from which he was suffering. We shall never forget Their Majesties' visit to this country in 1939, and we look forward hopefully to their return. On that occasion they established, I believe, a record, in that never before had a reigning monarch paid a visit to one of the nations of the British Empire.

I think that we as Canadians, are also interested in Prince Charles, born to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh on November 14, 1948, and that we shall all look forward with interest to the growth and development of this young prince.

Having expressed our thanks to His Excellency the Governor General for his gracious speech delivered to both Houses of Parliament, I should like to take the opportunity of tendering to the Right Honourable Viscount Alexander of Tunis, our Governor General, and to Lady Alexander our sincere appreciation of the very kind and most efficient manner in which they are carrying out the duties and the responsibilities of their high office. They have, indeed, won our hearts by their kindness and their helpfulness. They have travelled across this country and mingled with our people to such an extent that they are favourably known and spoken of from coast to coast. We would assure

them that we appreciate more than words can express the excellent service which they are rendering.

When the Allies finally won the terrible conflict which is now known as World War No. 2, all of us, I think, had high hopes that the nations would settle down and together endeavour to build a world of peace and good will. But evidently that is not to be. Some of the nations which were Allies in that grim struggle are now divided against each other, and this situation is forcing the western nations to spend millions upon millions of dollars on measures of security. Had peace in our time really been an accomplished fact, this money could have been spent as it should have been, on the welfare of our people. But in fact, as indicated in His Excellency's Address, as a matter of self-preservation, our defence estimates loom large. As peace-loving Canadians we regret the necessity of spending these huge amounts for purposes of this kind, but we must try to co-operate fully with those who are united in the North Atlantic pact, and stand firm to protect our own freedom and our own way of life. For why should any nation or any group, through doctrines of materialism or their own ideologies, try to drive out of our life or out of our nation the things which are spiritual? If we permit this to be done we shall start on a downward course from which we may never recover. I believe that any nation which starts on such a course—though it may take a little time—ends in disaster. Therefore, I say, no matter how much we love peace, we must never lower ourselves individually or as a nation by failing to stand firm for what we believe to be right.

Honourable senators, when we review the leadership given to some of the other countries and realize the plight in which their people now find themselves, it seems to me that we should be extremely grateful for the leadership we have enjoyed in Canada. Our leaders in both houses of parliament have not been content to devote their time and energy to planning our material welfare alone; in addition, they have had a high sense of duty and responsibility in spiritual matters. Time will not permit me to make a general review of all who have served us as leaders; but I think it is right and proper to say that they have all been good men. There have been differences of opinion regarding matters which have affected our internal economy, but fundamentally our leaders have been sound and have always had their feet on the ground.

I should like to say a few words about our most recent leaders. Under the leadership of the Right Honourable Mr. King, the Liberal