

*The Address—Mr. J. B. Hamilton*

I know that farm organizations today are not generally inclined in the way of political action. But I also know that there are a growing number of persons, members of these organizations, who feel rather frustrated in coming time after time, cap in hand to the federal government asking for equitable treatment, and going away empty handed. A growing number of farmers in these organizations believe it is time that they were part of a political party that had a real chance of forming a government, so that as part of the government they could expect to obtain the kind of legislation they desire. They know that farm organizations in the United Kingdom and in the United States have been forced to take political action and that as a result of that political action they have greatly improved the position of the agricultural industry. I believe that the self-employed business men could gain much from such a new political realignment.

The retail merchants association last year in a brief to the government pointed out that this so-called free enterprise system, unless the government stepped in, would soon squeeze them out and that the whole retail field across this country would be gobbled up by a few large corporations. They asked the government for specific measures to help the self-employed and independent business man to carry on the very important service that he provides to his community.

The resolution of the Canadian Labour Congress at Winnipeg gives the C.C.F. new hope. It gives the ordinary people of this country new hope that there will be built in Canada within a few short years a political movement with a broad membership, a political movement that will as the C.C.F. obtain its finances entirely from ordinary persons, which does not receive contributions from the great corporations and which therefore is free at all times to work in the interest of the ordinary people of this nation. The C.C.F. membership in this house is small today; notwithstanding we think that our program is just as valid as it has ever been. With the encouraging signs on the horizon we look to the future with confidence; and we expect that in the not distant future the electorate of this country will place their confidence in the movement to which we belong.

**Mr. John B. Hamilton (York West):** I had thought, Mr. Speaker, that today was known as leaders day in the house but I found that I was having the opportunity to speak. I then realized that this must be a misnomer. At the same time I think we could possibly call the day congratulation day. It is, of course, the first opportunity for us to speak

to you, Mr. Speaker, and to congratulate you upon your appointment to the chair of this house. At the same time I think that congratulations should be offered to your new deputy and also to the deputy chairman of committees. I might say a special word there because of my long friendship with the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Rea). As well, I think congratulations are due to the two new members on the treasury benches. I think all of us wish them well as they take up their new assignments. I think we also should take note of the move to the office of Minister of Citizenship and Immigration of the honourable and lovely lady who represents the constituency of Hamilton West, Mrs. Fairclough. From some short experience I can say to her that she faces a great challenge in that portfolio but, at the same time, a highly rewarding one because, of course, the duties that she undertakes deal to a great extent with the problems of human beings; and there can be no greater satisfaction than that to be found in solving problems of that type.

A few short months ago, I found myself in almost the identical position in which I find myself tonight. At that time I said I might also offer congratulations to all of those who got here. But at the same time I should like to say that there will be those who were here whom we shall miss. To many of us here it has been a great lesson to find that no matter how heated the debate may be in this House of Commons or on the election platform, it has not altered or affected the friendships which grow up over the period of years. I thought I was just getting accustomed to this position—

**Mr. Speaker:** I wonder whether the hon. member would permit me to interrupt him in order to correct an omission of my own. I should have read the motion which was moved by way of sub-amendment by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue). I should be glad if the house would permit me to do that now or would take it as read?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed that it be taken as read so as not to interrupt the hon. member?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think all hon. members heard the amendment.

**Mr. Hamilton (York West):** I was saying, that I felt that I had just become accustomed to speaking from this side of the house when everything appears to be changed. I have only one warning for those who continue over here and that is that when we are taking up position for attack we wait