

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

on that speech as one that contains very little vision and inspiration. As I listened to the hon. member who moved the address it occurred to me that the house may yet expect an even greater speech when, some time in the future, he speaks on a subject more productive of inspiration than the document which is before us. If he could be stirred by that document, what would he do when there was one with some material in it?

I wish to begin by speaking of my country, the country of which all of us are proud to be members. It is not a time for effusive oratory but a time when we, as Canadians, look back over 100 years of our confederation and from a knowledge of the past secure a vision of Canada's future. Canada is a land of opportunity, a land which, beginning with two basic races, has welcomed people from all parts of the world with their cultures and their beliefs. One thinks too of the dramatic history of this nation, of the first hunter, the first human being seeking game, who crossed the Bering isthmus. One thinks of the Vikings, those mighty men of valour, who ventured forth into the uncertainties of the sea and came back to report to their homeland of this land beyond the sea. We think of the navigators and explorers, the priests and the peasants, the traders and the millions that have come to this land for freedom. It is a story to inspire. Too often Canadians are afraid to speak out.

• (3:20 p.m.)

One of the great and powerful instruments that has contributed to making the United States great is the knowledge of history by its citizens from school age up. They have an appreciation of the past and a unity based on the achievements of the present.

We are all deeply proud to be called Canadians. We hope that we shall never falter when principles are at stake and that we shall never falter in the face of false pretence.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not often refer to words I have used on other occasions but I shall refer to something I said in 1960. From earliest days I looked forward to the time when I might contribute to bringing about within this nation a Canadianism that would know no discrimination and in which colour, race, religion and those things that separate us sometimes would not be regarded as disqualifications for Canadian citizenship. I summed up those views in these words:

I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my own way,

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free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind.

That, sir, during the years has been my purpose and objective. When some look at the other side of the house and wonder whether there is anything in public life, my answer is that monetary satisfaction cannot equal that which comes to those who endeavour to do what they can do for their country, in peace and war.

Before I deal with the speech from the throne I shall refer to some of the events of the years. They will show something of the history of this country and its background, something of the speeches made at the time of confederation and prior thereto, something of the general sentiment held by Lord Dorchester, Richard Uniacke, Chief Justice Sewell, Bishop Strachan, Brenton Haliburton, William Lyon Mackenzie, who had the idea of confederation before he became a rebel, Alexander Morris, today often forgotten, a strongly prophetic and compelling advocate of confederation for Canada and the man who first uttered by motion a resolution in favour of confederation, and Alexander Galt. I also think of Cartier, one of the first in French Canada to support confederation, despite the fact that he had been with Papineau in 1837.

George Brown joined with them at a historically critical moment, acting in a manner that permitted others to push ahead with the great design. And, of course, there is Sir John A. Macdonald, the indispensable, without whom confederation would never have been possible.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No one denies him the title of the great architect of Canadian confederation, except in some of the literature put out by the Centennial Commission. To those who share the view expounded in that literature I recommend the words of Laurier. This is not a centennial for Liberals alone. This is a centennial for all Canadians. This is not a centennial to rewrite history.

Mr. Hellyer: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is not a centennial where any leaders of the nation may say to any member of the Centennial Commission, "Forget about the Tories of confederation; let us think about the present." This is Canada's centennial. I am sorry to have to say this, but often one wonders these days whether the