

*The Address—Mr. Fortin*

I know that all members of this house share my feelings in this regard and that they join me in wishing you much satisfaction in the discharge of your responsibilities. I also want to assure you of my entire devotion and unflinching loyalty.

Allow me to express my gratitude to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) who entrusted me with the task—both delicate and difficult—of seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne. This token of esteem I accept on behalf of my voters and on my own behalf, but I consider it mainly as a token of esteem for my fellow-citizens of the province of Quebec. He has sought to show me his confidence and his friendship, and I feel greatly honoured.

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that I am something of a Johnny-come-lately. However, I have had occasion to meet almost all members of this house and, having had the advantage of being elected at a by-election, I have by some strange coincidence been able to meet a goodly number of hon. members who were holidaying in my riding last September.

I would indeed be remiss in my duty, Mr. Speaker, if I did not pay a particular tribute to the electors of Montmagny-L'Islet, whom I am deeply proud to represent here. I am not overlooking the fact that, ever since its establishment twenty-five years ago, the constituency of Montmagny-L'Islet has been represented by a Liberal member. Nor am I unaware of the fact that the vote given to me is extremely significant, since I had asked my constituents to say with their votes whether they approved or not, as of last September, the policies of the government. The vote was also significant because my constituency is both urban and rural. It has been possible, therefore, for people of all classes of that community to express their point of view on the policies of this government.

My constituency is located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, 30 miles east of Quebec city. It is bounded on the north by the St. Lawrence, on the east by the constituency of Kamouraska, on the south by the U.S. border and on the west by the constituency of Bellechasse. As I said, my constituency is both urban and rural. However, nearly all parishes in the constituency of Montmagny-L'Islet are farming communities. I am therefore, as it were, a spokesman here of a deserving agricultural class and, at the same time, of a working class earning its daily livelihood with much satisfaction.

May I point out, incidentally, how pleased I was to read in the speech from the throne,

that the government was going to introduce during the year, a bill concerning crop insurance. This answers a request that has been made to me many times in my constituency; it is indeed with pleasure that I shall support that measure.

Mr. Speaker, there is one consideration, of a personal nature perhaps, which I cannot leave unmentioned. I cannot adequately express the emotion I felt yesterday when, for the first time, I entered this house. I remembered at that moment that I represent here the third generation of my family. In 1920, my grandfather sat in this house. In 1930, my father did likewise. I am resolved, Mr. Speaker, to follow in their footsteps and to devote the best of my abilities to my country.

While I shall be representing a constituency of the immediate district of Quebec, I think it is proper to point out that I am the only one here with veteran status.

I have always been active in veterans' organizations in my area, and I know they will be counting on my earnest support. It gives me pleasure, therefore, to assure them of my full co-operation.

I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Jorgenson) who, a moment ago, moved the address in a masterful and thoughtful manner. I followed his speech with close attention, and I do feel that the problems of the western part of this country are much the same as those we face in our province and farther eastward.

I am the first French-speaking member to benefit from the simultaneous translation system installed here after the last session. This is something which is closely connected with the matter of bilingualism in the country.

*(Text):*

I believe it would be quite in order to make these few remarks in English. I wish to extend my most sincere congratulations to all those members who at the last session voted unanimously in favour of the establishment of a simultaneous translation system in this chamber. I read with very great interest the speech delivered here on August 11 by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker). He said at that time everything that needed to be said on the subject, but he mentioned in particular that from now on members in general will be able to make a better contribution to the debates in this house. I am sure that this new facility will not reduce the enthusiasm shown by so many members to learn a second language.

*(Translation):*

Last September, in the dying days of the session, Bill C-60 was put forward for the