

The Address—Mr. St. Laurent

(b) to solve the urgent problem of unemployment;

(c) to relieve Canadian taxpayers from the burden of excessive taxation and thereby enable Canadian producers to lower their cost of production and to meet increasing competition;

(d) to eliminate waste and extravagance in government and improve its efficiency;

(e) to facilitate and encourage the processing of our natural resources in Canada, and thereby increase opportunities and employment for Canadians;

(f) in co-operation with the provinces to develop an effective contributory plan which will assure that every Canadian will have adequate hospital and medical services.

Mr. Speaker: At this time I should like to say that I am somewhat impressed by the length of the amendment. I say this in all seriousness. Hon. members will recall that last year, I think when there was an amendment before the house for the Speaker to leave the chair and the house to go into committee of ways and means, the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) had moved an amendment which was also very lengthy. One could argue that there are some paragraphs in the amendment for which one might want to vote, and there are others against which one might want to vote. This becomes what we call a complicated amendment.

Hon. members may wish to have the subjects segregated in order to have a clear-cut expression of the will of the house.

It will be recalled that in the past the vote of thanks on the address was a reply to each paragraph in the speech from the throne. We did away with that a long time ago, and the motion in reply is now only a vote of thanks and the regrets added are usually rather brief.

I say this at the present time to give hon. members an opportunity to consider what I have said. For my part, I shall study the amendment; but I think it might be well for the mover to consider shortening his amendment, for the reasons I have mentioned.

Then there is another reason which I think the hon. member will want to know about, and it is this: If throughout this session on occasions with a view to the airing of grievances he wishes to move amendments to the motion for Mr. Speaker to leave the chair to go into committee of supply, he will be blocked by many of the paragraphs contained in this long amendment. Because the house will have given its judgment; and therefore he will not be able to bring forward many of the important subjects he might wish to discuss later at great length.

Now, having said this, I shall consider the amendment, and I would like my colleagues to do likewise.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before dealing with the amendment just placed before the house and before dealing with the subject matter of the speech to which we have just listened with keen interest and attention I should like, as did the Acting Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Rowe), to extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Leduc) and the seconder (Mr. Carrick) of the address in response to the speech from the throne. I think no one will question or will differ from the Acting Leader of the Opposition's appreciation of the interesting speeches made by those two new members, nor in his forecast that it enables us to expect much from them of interest to the house and of value to our parliamentary institutions in their participation in the activities of parliament.

They are both relatively young men, but men who already have had distinguished careers in their respective constituencies, and who have been chosen by their constituents to follow the distinguished representatives of those constituencies who sat in the house before them.

The hon. member for Verdun (Mr. Leduc) is a jurist of some 20 years or more experience, one who has acted in that capacity as adviser of school boards and of the municipal councils of the city of Verdun, and who has acquired experience, both legal and administrative, in that capacity. I am sure his contributions to our debates will be of value. He is also a professor of social sciences at the University of Montreal, and no doubt his theoretical studies were reflected in the speech he made when moving this address.

The hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Carrick) has many qualifications which command our admiration; and the ease and facility with which he acquitted himself in his task also promise much for his future in this House of Commons. He, too, followed in the footsteps of a distinguished predecessor, and has, himself, one of the qualifications which endeared his predecessor to the whole Canadian public. I refer to his prowess in athletics, and his devotion to the development of that side of human activity which has its value in developing the qualities of a nation.

He, too, is a distinguished lawyer with many years' experience, one who has represented this government in important litigation, one who in the course of his distinguished service during the last war headed the legal department of our Canadian forces in Italy. And I am sure that the