

*The Address—Mr. Churchill*

industry is attracted and economic possibilities are tremendous. So many people are leaving the centre of Montreal to settle in Ville Laval, that local authorities need the assistance of the senior governments to settle their problems. The Quebec government, both the one in power before June 1966 and the present administration, have done their share. The central government has helped within the limits of its jurisdiction. It is therefore with enthusiasm that local authorities have learned about this important piece of legislation of which they expect so much.

Mr. Speaker, before concluding my remarks I would be remiss if I failed to say a few words about the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, like the previous speakers.

They lived up to their electors' trust. We are proud of those Canadians. I would also like to congratulate most respectfully the new representative of the Queen of Canada, His Excellency Roland Michener. May his reign be long and fruitful in the best interests of our country, our dear and great Canada.

[English]

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** I commence my remarks, Mr. Speaker, with my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Jamieson) and seconder Mr. Côté (Nicolet-Yamaska) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I thought they performed their tasks very well indeed. I was most interested in hearing from the mover of the motion, who eloquently and ably presented his opinions to the House of Commons. I was particularly taken with the common sense he showed when he told us he waited for a great many months before expressing his opinions in the House of Commons. This very sound advice has been given over the years to new members, not to plunge in too rapidly but to find out first how this place operates. The hon. member for Burin-Burgeo apparently did just that. He waited, watched and listened and then finally made his contribution.

He touched upon a number of subjects which are of great interest. One of the points he made which attracted my attention was his acknowledgement that he had changed his opinion of this institution after arriving here as a member, from the opinion that he held before he entered parliament. Like a good many people across Canada, he thought that this institution was somewhat ineffective and outdated. However, having been here as a

[Mr. Rochon.]

member and having become acquainted with the nature of the institution, he has changed his mind.

I think that would happen and has happened to most people who enter this chamber. A great many have a wrong idea of parliament, and when they come here as new members, if they are patient and willing to learn they soon discover that, despite its weaknesses, which everybody acknowledges, this is still the best system that has been devised for the government of mankind. It is subject always to criticism. It is subject to improvement. We are living in an age when we have seen around the world the misuse of power and the overthrow of governments of one kind and another. I presume there is in the world at the present time almost every known form of government, but I doubt whether there are many people in Canada who would want to change what we have for what various countries abroad have. We do not want to be placed in the position where we can be subjected to a *coup d'état* by military personnel who are unhappy about the way things may be going on in parliament. Neither do we want to be subjected to a revolution by a group that may want to change our whole social structure. Nor do we want to establish an absolute monarchy or a dictatorship.

● (9:30 p.m.)

All of these things we have seen in the world within the last generation. In looking abroad at these other countries I think we can be very thankful that we have this type of institution, this type of government, which can be changed by the will of the people when the opportunity is presented. It does give one a chance, through the freedom that we enjoy in Canada, to express a variety of different opinions without any worse effect than, perhaps, the jeers and ridicule of those who have a different opinion; and that is not a very serious burden to bear. Sometimes I think we do not count our blessings. Yet we should, when we look abroad and see the disturbed state of the world.

How has it come about, Mr. Speaker, that during the 100 years of our confederation we have not been bothered by great upheavals within our society that have in any way affected the nature of this institution? The foundations have been well and truly laid.

May I interpose this comment, Mr. Speaker. I had not intended to speak tonight. However, I discovered that there were others here who