

The Address—Mr. Ryan

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members will realize it is now well after 12 o'clock noon, and unless questions are of grave immediate urgency might I suggest that they be deferred to another day.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, May 22, consideration of the motion of Miss Pauline Jewett for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the speech from the throne delivered by His Excellency the Administrator at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Diefenbaker.

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, to continue from where I left off at six o'clock yesterday, I would like to say to all hon. members, and particularly to all whose mother tongue is French, how pleased I am with the contents of the speech from the throne, and especially paragraphs 6 and 7. I am convinced that without the strengthening of our traditional bonds, and at the same time the recognition of the stimulating contribution of other cultures, this nation cannot flourish as it should. Indeed, it is in danger of disintegration if such steps are not taken. The leadership of the Conservative party never did pay proper attention in this direction, and it is doubtful whether there is still any awakening or realization there. That is the main reason they are back in opposition after such a short parole.

The Prime Minister is to be heartily congratulated, not only for the speed with which he has written to the premiers of the provinces enclosing to each of them the terms of reference for the proposed royal commission of inquiry on bilingualism and biculturalism, but especially for the incorporation in the terms of reference of the expressed provision that:

—the contribution made by the other ethnic groups to the cultural enrichment of Canada and the measures that should be taken to safeguard that contribution—

—shall be taken into account.

The Prime Minister and his ministers are to be congratulated upon the whole content of the speech from the throne. They have not attempted to crowd the complete Liberal platform into it, as this would have meant biting off more than could properly be chewed. Instead, to the chagrin of the Leader of the Opposition, and contrary to his inclinations, a concise, clear course of action has been charted. It is a course that bespeaks decision and beneficial results for the nation. First things have been put first, and there is a new atmosphere of confidence throughout

[Mr. McIlraith.]

Canada as a result of the April 8 verdict of the people and as a result of the insight and drive that the Prime Minister has continued to demonstrate since that day.

My constituents in Spadina will be particularly interested in the measures designed to promote steady employment, the system of contributory portable pensions, the special assistance for technical training, the changes that will be made in the citizenship act to ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born, and the promised review of immigration policy. The unspecified amendments to the National Housing Act are also of considerable interest.

With respect to employment plans I suggest that wherever possible the work to be done should be taken to the workers or provided in their close vicinity, and not vice versa. In this way the chance of a better future is offered to many persons without their being forced to leave their own environment and seek residence elsewhere, which almost always entails the heartache of separation and difficult periods of adjustment and social integration. This is particularly applicable to the landed immigrant, who should have the benefit of the advice and close association of his friends of his own nationality.

I much appreciate finding in the speech from the throne the paragraph on the establishment of a comprehensive system of contributory portable pensions. I should expect that this would take some time to evolve, due to the complexities of any such proposed system. The new Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss LaMarsh) and her departmental assistants are to be complimented upon the hard work they have done and must no doubt still do in this respect. I receive many calls about this measure, particularly from the elderly who need and are looking forward to the extra \$10 per month.

There are already two provincial institutions in Spadina that have been established for retraining purposes and they are heavily subsidized with federal grants, but more assistance in this direction is needed and particularly in this area to which so many people who lack job security seem to gravitate. The increased technical training of our youth is also a necessity and a priority. In both these connections planning should be so tied in that tradesmen will be trained for as much indoor work as possible in the winter months and as much outdoor work as possible in the milder months, and work when feasible should be scheduled accordingly. This should be given emphasis because of the particular severity of our winters. Our