

Honourable senators, I repeat, I am a Conservative without prefix, without qualifications, and I do not believe that this chamber or any other chamber in the world could give to legislation the true, objective, ethical examination it should have unless the members of that legislature or chamber did hold those definite political opinions. Surely it is only a matter of applying your philosophy, of trying to adapt your philosophy to the legislation in question. I am going to have a few words to say later about something that was said the other day by the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford). One thing I want to make clear is that I have not come into this chamber to turn myself into a political eunuch, and I have no intention ever of running about with those people with open minds, some of their minds so open that their brains fall out.

We hear much about the business of democracy, the principle of democracy, being the right of choice. Well, it is the right of choice, but also, and more important, it is the burden of choice, the responsibility of standing up and being counted, and I think that in a forum such as this there should be some opportunity for education for our young people in Canada about their responsibilities and about what parties mean to this country.

As for myself, I wish to God sometimes I had time to instruct some of our newspaper people on what the party system has meant to the press. Had it not been for the party system in England the so-called free press would not have existed at all.

And now, honourable senators, I should, I suppose, come to the Speech from the Throne which is the main subject of the motion before the house.

About the address I only want to say this: I think that we can only consider the Speech from the Throne in a realistic or useful way when the legislation which stems from it comes before this house.

I know it has been said we have to give special attention to legislation coming before us because it may be minority legislation, and I shall have something to say about that later on.

I have been meeting people in this chamber and I have been meeting people in the city who say they find the Speech from the Throne dull. They say, "We don't find anything new in it, there is nothing startling, there is nothing to excite the people of Canada." Honourable senators, I wonder what people want in a Speech from the Throne. Do they honestly believe that any government, Liberal, Conservative or of any other ideological stripe, can at this time in the context of our

world come forth with a program guaranteed to cure quickly all the ills that afflict us?

This has become one of the prevalent superstitions of our time, the superstition that a government has the power and capacity to bring in legislation today or tomorrow that is going to relieve us not only of the difficulties which beset us as a people, but cover up all our individual foibles, our individual faults, and our individual failures.

This, I say, is one of the superstitions of our time and it is an evil superstition. It is a superstition which, believing that the Government is some great white father who can bring manna from Heaven for all of us, is sapping the vitality and the life of this country, and I am afraid sapping the vitality of the nation itself.

I myself am always amazed at the things Government can do, at the things they have done over the past five years. When I look at the program of the Government I am truly amazed at what they have been able to do. However, my amazement is almost equal when I see how little they have been able to accomplish in telling the public what they have done. This is one of the most curious things about this Government. Active in every way, vigorous in every way, they seem to have been completely inarticulate when they came to telling the people of Canada just what they had done. I do not know, I do not think any man in this country is wise enough to know, what could be done at the present time to relieve, to cure, so many of the ills that are afflicting us. There are no economic wonder drugs to cure quickly all the ills of Canada at the present time; and any party, any government, which comes and tells the people of this country that they have the answer to all our problems are not playing fair with the Canadian people, and are laying up trouble not only for themselves but for the whole democratic system.

I leave that and I come for a moment to something that was said the other day by my esteemed and revered friend, the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford). Incidentally, I must say that he showed himself to be a most delightful partisan when he spoke. I was intrigued by the joyousness with which he told us how in the last election his party had won an overwhelming victory and how our party had suffered an overwhelming defeat. I must say that the alchemy of his thought and the processes of his logic by which he reached this conclusion were a bit staggering. He said that 63 per cent of the people had failed to vote for the Conservatives, and that was a catastrophic defeat; that