

*The Address—Mr. Stewart*

**Mr. Denis:** So much the better for the Conservatives.

**Mr. Ricard:** Do not regret anything!

(Text):

**Mr. R. D. C. Stewart (Charlotte):** May I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of extending my congratulations to you on being appointed Deputy Speaker of this house. I am sure that you will preside over the deliberations of this assembly properly, honestly and fairly. I should like also at this time to extend to the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Flynn) my congratulations on his appointment as Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. I should like also to extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Bourdages) and seconder (Mr. Browne, Vancouver-Kingsway) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Both gentlemen acquitted themselves ably. They not only brought forth the program of this government, but they brought prestige and honour to their own constituents.

During this debate, which was adjourned so that beneficial legislation might be enacted, we have heard much criticism. We have heard many statements regarding the failure or the inability of this government to solve the problems of the country. I listened very intently to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) speaking in this debate, because as leader of the party that now claims to have all the answers I thought he would bring to this country some hope, some encouragement and some light on the problems facing it. Every country in the process of development has problems. When we cease to have problems, we cease to grow. Progress means change, but all change is not progress. I failed to find anything in his remarks that would lead the people of Canada to return to this house those who governed the country before 1957.

The tactics of the Leader of the Opposition, and I am sorry he is not in his seat tonight, remind me of the story of the farmer with the balky donkey. He was asked by one of his neighbours whether the donkey led or whether he did the driving. His answer was, I keep close to the donkey so that people cannot tell who is leading and who is driving. I wonder if that is not the position of the Leader of the Opposition. I have had a good deal of respect over the year for him.

At one time he occupied a very important place in the life of Canada but the speech he delivered was beneath him, and I say that sympathetically. It was the voice of the Leader of the Opposition but the sentiments were apparently those of someone else. When he visited my constituency in 1958, as chairman of the school board I arranged for him to

speak to a local class. I listened to him and he made a fine speech. Now I wonder what those boys and girls would say on hearing him decrying the position of Canada and saying Canada has lost prestige abroad.

I want to be fair to the Leader of the Opposition and I want to put on record the statement which he made, as recorded at page 40 of *Hansard*:

I have no doubt that when the time comes we shall have a full debate on international affairs at which time we shall be able to examine why, among other things, Canada's influence in these matters has declined rather than increased in the last four or five years.

What would those same boys and girls think of him when he criticizes the Secretary of State for External Affairs, a man who has done more to keep the name of Canada high in the councils of the world than any other man has done? He is a Canadian, a man who fought for peace on the battlefield and he is now fighting for peace in the councils of the world. Surely that criticism was absolutely uncalled for and unjust? The Leader of the Opposition has probably forgotten what the Premier of Sweden said about our minister of external affairs, and I quote:

Of all the world leaders, the man in the forefront in the fight for disarmament is the Hon. Howard Green.

When he made this statement he was speaking to the United Nations for all the world to hear.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister have held the name of Canada high in the councils of the world. Never before in the history of Canada has any prime minister dared to stand up and speak against aggression as has the present Prime Minister. The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Churchill) replying to the criticism of the Leader of the Opposition, regarding the position of Canada abroad placed on the record of the house for all time a complete answer to that criticism. He stated that Canada's position abroad was never better than it is today. I echo that statement.

Last fall, as a member of the NATO parliamentarian group, it was my privilege to visit with our armed forces in Germany and France and to serve as a member of the military committee. I also had an opportunity of speaking on military matters before the NATO delegates and I found that as Canadians we were highly accepted in the councils of the world. It is beneath the dignity of any man, any Canadian—and this is particularly true of and it applies to the Leader of the Opposition—to stand up in this house to decry and degrade the name of Canada throughout the world. We shall have our difficulties at home. We shall have our arguments and disputes but