

sure all honourable senators will agree with me that government business cannot be satisfactorily carried on unless the party in power has a working majority. As happened in a certain sporting event last night, it is also possible for a government, particularly a minority government, to be defeated at any time. Such a situation is certainly not for the country's benefit, nor is it good for Parliament.

Honourable senators, I feel, and I know you will agree with me, that the sooner we get back to the two-party system in this country, doing away with the splinter parties we have today, the better it will be for Parliament and for the country.

We are sometimes told that these Throne Speeches, of which I have heard a great number, together with many speeches in reply, are not always enlightening. This is I think, quite an understatement. In fact, they are seldom enlightening. And the one we have now before us is certainly no exception. Such speeches are considered to be a rough guide to legislation which is to come. From past experience we know that some of the legislation forecast will never reach the statute books. We also know, or at least we hope, that some most important matters not mentioned in the Throne Speech will be brought forward and put into legislation as the session progresses.

Before going further, honourable senators, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply. I liked the easy manner in which the mover of the address spoke. He had a very short time in which to become acquainted with this chamber, having been introduced here only a very few minutes previous, but he acquitted himself well and I am sure we were all pleased with his remarks.

I was particularly pleased with Senator Cook's statement to the effect he was certain that today 99 per cent of the people of the Province of Newfoundland are in favour of Confederation. I was a member of the House of Commons 15 years ago when the admission of Newfoundland to the Confederation was before Parliament. One hundred per cent of the members of the House of Commons at that time were in favour of Newfoundland's admission, and I am quite satisfied that had a plebiscite been taken across the country it would have been found that nearly all people were pleased to have Newfoundland as a sister province.

I listened also with considerable pleasure to my good friend, the seconder of the motion (Hon. Mr. Denis). He and I have much in common. We entered the House of Commons the same year, 1935, and we have been friends

ever since. He made a good speech, as we would expect from him. If I had any criticism to make of it I would say that it sounded a little political, but perhaps we should not be surprised at that because I am sure he took a very prominent part in the election campaign in the constituency of St. Denis, and I have no doubt that he gathered much material for his speech of yesterday from the stump speeches he made there.

I was particularly pleased with the latter part of his speech in which he condemned some of our newspapers for obtaining their material from what he called radicals and trouble makers, and not always publishing the remarks or statements of more serious and responsible people. He said that that was one reason for our having so much misunderstanding in this country at the present time. I agree entirely with what the honourable senator said in that connection.

As I said a moment ago, there is considerable legislation to be presented to Parliament during this session. When it appears before us in concrete form we will then have an opportunity of examining it and of expressing our opinions on it. That, of course, is the best time at which to discuss legislation. However, in this debate an opportunity is provided to participate in extending our thanks to His Excellency for his Speech. It gives us an opportunity also of reviewing conditions in the country and of offering some criticism of the manner in which the Government is meeting its obligations, and of stating what improvements might be made. This applies more particularly to the House of Commons, of course, but I am sure honourable senators will say what they have to say about these matters.

I do not intend, except very briefly, to go into the different items mentioned in the Speech from the Throne because I know that there are very able colleagues of mine on both sides of the house who are going to speak, and I am sure they will go into these matters very thoroughly.

As I look across the floor of the chamber, honourable senators, I see that there has been a change. I miss the face of my very good friend of many years, the Honourable Ross Macdonald. He also entered the House of Commons at the same time as I did, back in 1935. From his first entrance into Parliament he showed his leadership. I remember at that time that we had a veterans' organization to which some very distinguished members of Parliament belonged. Its membership included half a dozen or more cabinet ministers, and men like Sir Eugene Fiset. Later on I think Lord Tweedsmuir and also Lord Alexander were members. When that organization decided to select a chairman the