

*The Address—Mr. Broome*

appreciation and esteem. The various elements of French culture I have gathered there have been a welcome addition to my education.

In this 23rd parliament which looms so large in the history of Canadian politics, I am happy to find myself in the company of five colleagues from the medical profession. I am also particularly happy to find myself in the company of the first Canadians of Italian and Chinese descent to be members of the House of Commons. I daresay that I share their feelings unreservedly, being myself the first Canadian of Polish descent to sit in this honourable house.

I am also proud to represent the cosmopolitan constituency of Trinity which in the past elected such well-known members as Hugh Plaxton, Lionel Conacher, Donald Carrick and Senator Roebuck. Like them, I wish to dedicate my life to the service of this, my native constituency. May I in this way show my gratitude towards Canada—"mon pays, mes amours", to use a phrase from the French Canadian song which I often sang on St. John the Baptist day.

Should I admit that I bend under the burden of so much dignity and responsibility imposed upon me by my duties as a representative of my fellow citizens? However, let me add at once that I take heart at the thought that, as the sole liberal member from the city of Toronto, I follow in the footsteps of a great parliamentarian and legal authority, the very distinguished former prime minister (Mr. St. Laurent), until recently leader of a Liberal government which gave our great country its most glowing years of harmony and economic development ever witnessed in our history. Bold and clear-minded architect of the full emancipation of our country, a statesman whom posterity will consider as a leading figure of the Liberal party, he saved world peace, on October 19, 1956, in directing the conduct of our representatives at the United Nations Organization. "Man's time being short," as mentioned in Holy Writ, this highly regarded leader wishes to leave the parliamentary scene. He will be remembered as one of the most important personalities in the political history of Canada. This man was a great leader and more particularly a great Canadian.

(Text):

**Mr. E. J. Broome (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, may I first, as is the custom of the house, join with speakers who have

preceded me in this debate in the congratulations they have extended to you and to the Deputy Speaker. These are no formal congratulations, sir, but a sincere tribute to one who by his fairness, tact, dignity and constant good humour, sometimes under the most trying circumstances, has earned the respect of all hon. members of this house. I must also congratulate the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Smith), the mover of the address in reply to Her Majesty's speech, and the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Arsenault), who seconded that address.

As the house is well aware, the debate on this address was interrupted on October 23 by unanimous consent of the house in order to allow the government to introduce certain urgent, top priority legislation and the house has been occupied with this business until November 11 when the throne speech debate was resumed. What did the house accomplish in that period between October 23 and November 11? Mr. Speaker, I venture to suggest that never before in the history of Canada was so much accomplished for the people of Canada in such a short time.

On October 24 the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness) introduced a bill providing for cash advances to prairie farmers on farm-stored grain, a measure supported by every party in this house but one which had to wait for a Conservative government before being put on the statute books. This bill will advance to western farmers between \$100 and \$150 million on wheat stored on their farms and awaiting delivery to the wheat board. The cash advance is repaid as wheat is delivered so there is no cost to the Canadian taxpayer except administration costs. It is designed particularly to help the small farmer and its effect will be to stabilize purchasing power in the prairie provinces and thus give a lift to our whole western economy. This bill was finally passed on October 31 and, as a new member, I must confess I was amazed at the length of time hon. members on the other side of the house took to say "yes" to a bill which they all agreed from the start they would support.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we dealt with the various measures introduced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Monteith). First there were amendments to the Old Age Security Act increasing the pension to \$55 per month, reducing the basic residence requirement from 20 years to 10 years and increasing the length of permissible temporary absence of pensioners from Canada from three months to six months. I believe