

The Address—Mr. Pearson

ahead very well so far as the companies are concerned. I am not aware of any complaint with regard to any action undertaken by Eldorado.

Mr. Pearson: Can the minister tell the house whether Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited is now competing with private companies in the purchasing of contracts from certain other private companies in the uranium industry which are now unable to carry on?

An hon. Member: He still doesn't know.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the mysterious voice that says I do not know may I say I happen to know quite a bit about this matter. I will inquire from Eldorado as to what the situation is at the present moment with regard to contracts which still remain to be transferred.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Friday, January 15, consideration of the motion of Mr. Emilien Morissette for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

(Translation):

Hon. Lester B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like first to congratulate the mover of the address in reply to the speech from the throne (Mr. Morissette). He has performed his function with ability and in a way which gives great satisfaction to the members of his party.

(Text):

May I also, Mr. Speaker, offer my very warmest congratulations to the seconder of the address (Mrs. Casselman). I know, because of the reception which she received the other evening, she accomplished her task in a way which must have given great satisfaction to all members of this house, to her constituents, to her party and to herself. As she spoke so admirably, Mr. Speaker, I know that those who have been in this house for some years must have been thinking especially of her predecessor in her constituency and the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe) who must have been a very proud man that afternoon. The hon. member not only spoke well, but she spoke in an objective, a fair-minded and responsible manner. She even was good enough to say some very generous and deserved things in tribute to that great Liberal undertaking, the St. Lawrence seaway.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you will allow me to say with how much satisfaction we in the opposition see you back in your seat in your accustomed serenity, good nature and im-

partiality. May I also congratulate you on your new assistant, the Deputy Speaker, who has been appointed with the good wishes and assurance of co-operation from all members of the house.

There have been important developments, Mr. Speaker, since we last met, important developments internationally and domestically. Some of these developments have been encouraging and some give us cause for anxiety. But it must be said at once that the speech from the throne, which is of course in substance but not in form the statement of the government, does not in any appropriate way reflect any of these anxieties. It is indeed as a state of the nation report a very unimpressive and superficial document and, as has been pointed out already in press comment dealing with it, is far more notable for what it omits than for what it includes. In fact, it reflects the satisfied and complacent attitude of this government.

In looking over the speech, and it is quite a long document, I notice that the word "unemployment" occurs only once, and then it is tied to the word "seasonal". The word "defence" does not appear in the document at all; nor do the words "fiscal" or "monetary policy" appear. In the absence of anything that would show a government understanding of these serious problems a waiting country, however, was told that there was to be an amendment to the Feeding Stuffs Act; a line about the Feeding Stuffs Act but not even a word for defence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to begin what may, I am afraid, be a somewhat lengthy speech by saying something about foreign affairs and then defence. We have been informed by the propaganda agencies of the government that Canada's position in the world, Canada's prestige in the world, has been now restored—

Mr. Churchill: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: —from the position which it had reached during the postwar period to 1957. It has suddenly been discovered by spokesmen or writers for the government that our position and prestige were so low in the world during those years. Well, Mr. Speaker, it will be news to a great many people in the United Nations, in NATO, in the commonwealth, that we had sunk so low and that our representatives in those years were despised and rejected among men. No doubt, in the eyes of the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) himself the lowest point we reached in those years was at the United Nations during the Suez crisis when the Canadian delegation initiated intervention through the establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force. Speaking last November 3 in Toronto to a Conservative