

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Knowles:** —will consideration be given—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Is not that an infringement of the direction you gave the other day, Mr. Speaker, with respect to such questions as can be asked on the orders of the day?

**Mr. Knowles:** In view of the urgency—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I did not hear the question of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**Mr. Knowles:** I have not yet had a chance to state it.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I say that in asking questions on the orders of the day, hon. members should ask questions and not make statements.

**Mr. Knowles:** Will the Minister of Finance give consideration to the request of the super-annuated civil servants for a cost of living bonus or other supplement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. In view of my remarks of yesterday I think that this question should be put on the order paper.

**Mr. Knowles:** It is extremely urgent to the people concerned.

### FLAXSEED

#### AVAILABILITY FOR CRUSHING IN SASKATCHEWAN VEGETABLE OIL PLANTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. R. Knight (Saskatoon):** Has the Minister of Trade and Commerce before him an answer to the question I asked yesterday in his absence?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Flax is being sold at the moment direct from the farmer to the private trade. The government has provided facilities for a growers' pool in flax, but since market prices are well above initial payment of the pool, no flax is being delivered to the pool. Therefore the proper method for the crusher in Saskatoon to follow in providing for its requirements next year is to estimate such requirements and purchase the flax on the open market.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, September 21, consideration of the motion of Mr. Maurice Boisvert for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak in this debate my first duty, and it is indeed a pleasure and not a perfunctory one, is to congratulate you on your elevation to the position of first commoner. I do so with personal pleasure; for over the years I have had the pleasure of observing that in your occupancy of the office of Deputy Speaker you have accorded to all hon. members that equality without which it is impossible to carry on properly the functions of parliament.

On this occasion, which in certain respects is different from similar occasions in the past, all I intend to do is to place certain suggestions before this house; because, as I see the situation, the Canadian people having spoken, and it being the duty of all hon. members to accede to the wishes and the will of the majority, what I have to say will not be a rehash of the election campaign. I shall endeavour to place before the government and this house certain matters in respect to which I believe changes might well be made.

When one comes here for the first time he expects resentment and recrimination to be the natural attitude as between parties in parliament. But, as was demonstrated a moment ago when I rose to speak, the generous attitude shown by hon. members opposite indicates that after all, there is, in this House of Commons, which is properly representative of the people, an abiding spirit of friendship and respect among members on all sides of the house. And, Mr. Speaker, without that friendship and respect parliament would be a place in which few of us would wish to be.

I have been impressed since the session has begun, as I am sure you, sir, and all other hon. members have been, by the high quality of the new members who have come to the house, constituting an infusion of new blood into this national assembly.

I was greatly impressed by the address of the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Boisvert), the mover of the address, and also by the address of the seconder, the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Laing). The presence of these hon. members in the House of Commons will raise the standard of parliament. Again, yesterday, I enjoyed very much the splendid address of the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Balcer), who is able, as I wish I were, to speak with equal facility in either of the official languages. I was impressed, too, by the address of the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne).

There was a demonstration of democracy yesterday, when one of the opponents of the union of Newfoundland with Canada rose in his place and, in a spirit of good will and compromise, and with the realization that