

to "Chateau Maisonneuve" the name of the new Canadian National Railways hotel in Montreal?

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Duplessis does not want to.

Mr. Dufresne: Whenever he does want to, he will not seek permission from the hon. member for St. Mary.

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I must inform my hon. friend that this matter lies within the purview of the Canadian National Railways authorities and not of the Department of Transport.

Mr. Dufresne: Has the Minister of Transport already recommended to the board of transport commissioners that this change be made or does he intend to do so?

(Text):

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MRS. ANN SHIPLEY
AND SECONDED BY MR. OVIDE LAFLAMME

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mrs. Ann Shipley (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, when the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) asked me by telephone if I would move the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I of course immediately accepted the honour, but with some humility. However, I soon became proud indeed, because I realized that the honour was not for me primarily but for the people of my riding, Timiskaming, whom I have the honour to represent; and furthermore, I believe that the right hon. Prime Minister and the members of his cabinet were not unmindful of the fact that in their selection they would be honouring all the women of Canada, be they in public or in private life.

It is not very long ago that women did not have the vote, and not so long ago that they were not considered persons for the purpose of qualifying for most public offices.

Throughout my experience as a trustee of a public school board, as the head of a municipality, a member of council and as a member of this House of Commons, I have found no indication whatever that we are simply tolerated; on the contrary, I have been welcomed and immediately accepted as any other member.

I stand in this house today, Mr. Speaker, as the first woman in Canadian history to move the address in reply to the speech from

The Address—Mrs. Shipley

the throne. I am deeply conscious of the significance it holds for the women of Canada. On their behalf and on behalf of the people of Timiskaming, I thank the right hon. Prime Minister and the members of his cabinet.

I was pleased to note in the speech from the throne that a bill will be introduced to provide that women will receive pay equal to that paid to men for equal work in industries which are under federal jurisdiction. This was indicated by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg) last session. This legislation will not affect women who are employed in industries which are not under federal jurisdiction. I mention this because there appears to be great misunderstanding on this point. All other women employees come under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments.

Speaking on this subject on previous occasions I pointed out how difficult it is to evaluate what is equal work, and I shall be most interested to examine the methods of administration which will be proposed in the forthcoming bill. What I would like to see is some method of giving women equal opportunities for advancement, but I know of no way of putting that into legislation in order to ensure the desired results. I notice that there is a vacancy on the civil service commission and I urge strongly that this vacancy be filled by the appointment of a woman. Not only do I feel that this is necessary; I urge that this should be done if we are to attain our objective of equal opportunities for all.

I congratulate and welcome the new members to this house. The seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Laflamme), will be telling you something of the accomplishments of those who come from his province, the province of Quebec. The hon. member for Bellechasse was outstanding as a student and won many honours. After graduating as a lawyer he took a most active interest in the work of the junior chamber of commerce and the affairs of his community and country and consequently was elected to this house at a very early age. In fact, I believe he is just two months short of being the youngest member in the house.

I am going to be brief in what I say as I am sure you are all anxious to hear le nouveau député de Bellechasse who speaks the mother tongue of a large percentage of my electors. Unfortunately and obviously that is not one of mine. He takes his seat on the right side, le côté droit, le côté sans lequel le cœur ne pourrait fonctionner.

Mr. Speaker, I wish also to congratulate you, as chairman of the committee on rules and procedure, upon the improvement in our