

Hon. Heath Macquarrie, seconded by the Honourable Arthur Tremblay, moved:

That the following Address be presented to Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To Her Excellency the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit upon whom has been conferred the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, I appreciate that one of my colleagues from across the way has said that I have made a good start, and I shall try not to lose too much momentum from now on. I appreciate the come-on suggestion made by the new leader across the way. I thought that he and his troops would be questioning our gallant crew here for an hour and a half, and I was going to add subtle nuances to my speech and bewilder both my friends and my opponents here.

I suppose someone like myself, who has spent long years inflicting his views upon university students and about one-third of the century being a politician, needs nothing less than another invitation to make yet another speech, and that is the way I have long felt. But I was honoured to be asked to make this particular speech—honoured and flattered—and I think that I said "yes" to my new leader here, Senator Roblin, just about as quickly as I said "yes" to the Prime Minister five years ago when I was asked if I would be summoned to this place. I think it took me about one quarter of a second to say "Thanks." And, as all my colleagues from an earlier parliament know, I have never regretted for a moment my first fond response to that long-sought request.

I am honoured in that I am the one to make, shall we say, the first speech on the first Order of the Day in this wonderful new Parliament, which, I believe, ushers in a new era in this country. There is something else unique about it. When you are in the ranks of the senior citizens you look, strive and yearn for any kind of experience which feels even remotely unique. But here I am, standing up in the only legislative assembly in this vast country which has a Liberal majority.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): One step at a time.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: You should be so lucky.

Senator Macquarrie: Honourable senators, I must begin by expressing what I am sure is the nation's rejoicing, and to use an old-fashioned theological word, thankfulness, for the obvious good health of our Governor General and wish her—and in this at least, I am sure, I command the support of all my colleagues and, indeed, all Canadians—the most abundant

blessings and satisfaction as she continues her dedicated efforts to serve our Queen and our people.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

● (1450)

Senator Macquarrie: The latest visit of our Queen to this country was greatly appreciated. We are happy that those wearying cross-country royal tours have long since been abandoned—wisely so. This year the people of Prince Edward Island did not have the pleasure of a visit by Her Majesty. However, in recent years the people of our beautiful province have enjoyed generous and enormously popular visits from the sovereign. She was with us to celebrate the centenary of the 1864 Charlottetown meetings from which the Dominion of Canada was born.

She was with us again in 1967 to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of the dominion to whose founders we gave shelter and at whose birth we provided the cradle 100 years earlier.

She came to our province in 1973 to celebrate our quite reluctant entry into Confederation as a province in 1873. At that time she made what I thought to be a witty remark, which I am sure Senators Inman, Bonnell and Phillips will remember. She said, "You in the Island seem very fond of centennials."

It is perhaps appropriate in this welcome and worthy age of ecumenism that the first tribute in this chamber to the visit of Pope John Paul II should come from a Presbyterian—perhaps not a very saintly one but a very stubborn one. It would be a most insensitive member of any religious group who would not be moved by having His Holiness in our midst. While I personally have some difficulty with some of his doctrines and doctrinal interpretations, I could not be other than profoundly impressed, deeply moved and intellectually and spiritually thrilled by the majesty and power of his ministry in our country. To see this strong, good man literally collect the multitudes, seek out the maimed, the afflicted and the weak, bless the children and preach with authority evokes powerful recollections. As a humble Protestant, it seems to ennoble, fortify and buttress the expression "Vicar of Christ".

To quit the Mount of Transfiguration as we are told we should, I must say a word, sincere if not sublime, about some of the earthly people who populate this honourable place. In the last few months I have happily grown accustomed to receiving good news about the land and, more particularly, about this Hill. Not least among the items was word of the appointment of our new Speaker.

We expect great things of you, sir, as you preside over our deliberations and take on the other important duties of your prestigious office—duties important and significant beyond the knowledge and appreciation of most people not in this chamber.

In a recent press story the new presiding officer of the House of Commons was described as an elegant Mr. Speaker—which that excellent gentleman truly is and much more. However, in my opinion as a careful watcher of both cham-