

In the few minutes remaining to me I would like to refer to the Senate. I am convinced of the need for a second review of all legislation. In the previous parliament there was, and probably there will always continue to be, an objection when the Senate returned a bill which had been passed by this House. Heated debate and emotional effect make a second look extremely important. However, to be fully effective and to achieve maximum efficiency, the manner of the appointment and the term of office of Senators must be reviewed. I am introducing a private member's bill that would vacate the seat of a Senator at the time of a general election, which would effectively limit the term of appointment to between 10 and 15 years.

I would also like to see a system introduced whereby the leaders of recognized parties would be consulted after a general election in provinces where Senate vacancies were created. These parties would have to obtain 50 per cent or more of the votes cast for the party with the greatest number of votes in that province. Such a system should heavily favour the elected government, but would also ensure reasonable representation from other parties.

I listened attentively when the Speech from the Throne was read, and although much of it is by necessity repetitious of the previous Speech from the Throne, I am most pleased with its content. Add to that the listing of the bills that are to be presented to this session of parliament and it will be readily understood why I look forward with keen interest and enthusiasm to the weeks and months that lie ahead.

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, when I spoke for the first time in the twentieth parliament I addressed my words to the youth of Canada. I do so again because I want to repeat my plea to them to have faith in the political and parliamentary process of our country. I want them to participate in the continued development of our country and to help make our society more human in an age when the computer threatens to submerge the individual. We are not at the end, but only at the beginning of a new century of development in Canada.

● (1530)

As we begin our work in this parliament, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on election to your high office. Your task is more difficult than the public may know. I wish you well and pledge my co-operation. I am delighted to see the table officers back in their accustomed positions. They perform invaluable work in this chamber.

It is a privilege for me to come here to represent again the people of Edmonton-Strathcona. We are an integral part of the vibrant city of Edmonton whose charms, business development and social and cultural services have been captured in a new, handsome booklet, "Edmonton", published by the Chamber of Commerce. Among the developments within Edmonton-Strathcona are three of current significance to the federal government. First, the old Strathcona Heritage conservation area, a fascinating project aided by Heritage Canada, which will both preserve and develop the core of our community; second, Fort Edmonton park, a very attractive reconstruction of the earliest history of Edmonton, well deserving of federal support; third, the relocation of the CPR Strathcona yards,

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facilitated by the railway legislation passed in the previous parliament.

I shall be working in the months ahead to advance these major projects which will have significant benefit for the people of Edmonton-Strathcona. But I want to place the interests of Strathcona within the larger area of the interests of Canada. It is essential for all Canadians to understand what is happening, not only in our own country but throughout the world. No longer is it sufficient for us to come into parliament and confine our interests to the area between St. John's, Victoria, and Inuvik. The whole world has become a community, and while it is true that we legislate only for Canada, it would be tragic if we failed to respond to the crisis of humanity that now dominates world concern.

The government's throne speech is not oblivious to this point. We read the following words in the speech:

Canada is contributing to international measures to reduce the unjust and potentially dangerous gap between the rich and the poor. This will involve us not only in increasing the flow of financial assistance to developing countries but in re-examining other policies which affect our economic relations with the third world.

This paragraph, inadequate as it is, prevents the throne speech from being a total disaster in the area of international relations. The complacent tone of the throne speech betrays a lack of concern—it can hardly be ignorance—for the true state of the world today. The Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, is warning us that we are in a "global emergency". Our times are characterized by an interlocking set of problems on a scale never seen before: mass poverty, food shortages, an energy-cost crisis, a continuing oppressive burden of military expenditure, inflation exacerbated by world monetary instability, and the prospect before us of a doubling of world population by the turn of the century.

These new problems are not simply extensions of old ones. As Maurice Strong, the distinguished Canadian who directs the United Nations' environment program, says, "they are of a wholly new character and require new perceptions and new kinds of responses." Here I welcome the appointment of the new Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) because he has revealed in the past sensitivity to the economic and social breakdowns that are a fall-out of technological excess. In a far-sighted speech to the University of North Carolina in 1971, the minister said:

We begin to see that public problems bedeviling us are rooted in our inadequate world view and impoverished social ethic... Once man—the human person in community with others—is given first place in our perception, we begin to reassess economic systems and political ideologies in this light. We try to think through how systems can be changed to fit and serve people, not the other way round.

When to this philosophy is added the power to make Canada's foreign policy, I see a sign of hope despite the throne speech. When he was in New York for his first United Nations speech, the minister gave a press interview in which he said:

We will seek out new approaches in an effort to reduce economic disparities in the world. I will have the department looking for new and imaginative developments in this field.

Mr. Speaker, in encouraging the minister to develop a more active Canadian policy "to reduce economic dispari-