

and in the face of the future will determine whether our nation will survive.

Some have been critical of the wording of the Speech from the Throne, saying it is a philosophical discourse and lacking in content. I personally feel the speech is particularly commendable in its philosophical approach—in its soul, as it were.

The Speech from the Throne throws out a challenge to all Canadians in these terms. I quote from the Speech:

We are entering an age of tension, an age of challenge, an age of excitement. At the threshold of the seventies a choice is open to Canadians as it is open to few persons in few countries. With foresight and stamina and enterprise, our's may be, if we wish it:

- a society in which human differences are regarded as assets, not liabilities;
- a society in which individual freedom and equality of opportunity remain as our most cherished possessions;
- a society in which the enjoyment of life is measured in qualitative, not quantitative terms;
- a society which encourages imagination and daring, ingenuity and initiative, not coldly and impersonally for the sake of efficiency, but with warmth and from the heart as between friends.

As Canada moves into the seventies, we are all invited to join in this bold enterprise—to share the excitement, to face the challenge, to pursue the distant ideal of a just society.

I strongly endorse these goals. They are the kind of objectives which can stimulate all Canadians. With these guidelines we can properly evaluate specific government proposals. While stressing these lofty ideals, the Government recognized as well that Canada faces a new age:

- a new age not so much because of changed circumstances, but new because of changed values and attitudes.

The Speech from the Throne goes on to say:

Because of the clash between these new values and the old, because of the quest by the young and the disillusioned for some resolution of attitudes, we live in a period of tenseness and unease. It is an age frequented by violence as desperate men seek ill-defined goals—

The worst violence in modern Canadian history had broken out before these words had been spoken.

I am sure I am speaking for most Canadians and without partisan bias when I say that we are proud of the positive and courageous attitude taken by the Government, and in particular by our Prime Minister, a position based on solid principles as enunciated in the Throne Speech.

I cannot overstress my admiration for the Prime Minister. No prime minister has been called upon to make a more agonizing choice than that which faced our Prime

[Hon. Mr. Molgat.]

Minister in these past two weeks. A weaker man, giving in to emotion, might have yielded to what appeared to be the easier course, might have compromised. The Prime Minister believes that compromise in these circumstances could only lead to anarchy; the Canadian people overwhelmingly support him.

The subversive elements in Canada underestimate the basic strengths of our union. They have tried to take Quebec out of Confederation but have found that the vast majority of the people of Quebec are Canadians and want to remain Canadians. This new tactic which is aimed at creating a storm of protest and a backlash outside of Quebec, which could then push Quebec out, will also fail because the rest of Canada recognizes it for what it is.

Far from being alienated from Quebec in this crisis, the rest of Canada feels sorrow and sympathy for the people of Quebec; not anger, but understanding; not division but a greater brotherhood. The rest of Canada wants to hear the opposition to terrorism come from within Quebec itself, from the vast silent majority, from the leaders of our churches and unions, from our universities and colleges, from all those who value real freedom and reject mob rule, violence and blackmail.

Our news media have a vital role to play in the interpretation of the Canadian scene. During the early days of the crisis, many Canadians were disappointed by the media; many felt that too often the voices heard in the rest of Canada were those of a few extremists; many felt that the worst offender was our Government agency, the CBC. The more recent coverage has been much more balanced and I compliment the news media for it. In a free society such as ours, the communication system has an awesome responsibility, one that is very difficult to discharge.

I am convinced that Canada will emerge from this crisis a stronger country, more united than ever, more determined in its pursuit of freedom, more determined—again I quote from the Speech from the Throne:

- ... that there is more need than ever before to preserve as constant values truth, honesty, excellence and relevance.

I now turn to a happy national event which took place this year, the Manitoba Centennial.

I would be remiss on this occasion if I did not express on behalf of the people of Manitoba our thanks for the assistance and co-operation of the Government of Canada in our celebrations.

The visit of our Prime Minister and the Cabinet meeting which was held at Lower Fort Garry on the banks of the Red River on July 1, the visit by our Governor General and the special session of the Manitoba Legislature presided over by our Queen and the Royal family were all appreciated by Manitobans and were fitting recognition for the "first-in province".

In spite of our humble beginnings with a population of 11,963 souls in 1870, I believe that Manitoba has grown to be, in many respects, an example to Canada.