

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, November 15, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Wednesday, November 14, consideration of the motion of Mr. Ken James for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak for the second time within four House working days. Perhaps it augurs well that someone who sits in the very back row, the most elevated row in the Chamber, has the opportunity to address this Chamber. I reflect on the words spoken here one time by a friend of mine, Sean O'Sullivan, who was a Member sitting in the far reaches of this Chamber. He once said that any seat in the House of Commons is a good seat. This is a very special place and, as I sat here in silence before the Chamber began its session this morning in this almost cathedral-like setting, a place that carries still the imprint of earlier Canadians, I thought of famous distinguished Prime Ministers like Macdonald, Borden and Diefenbaker; but I thought equally of men and women who came from different parts of Canada to represent their constituents. Perhaps many, if not most, are now long forgotten, but in their time they came and spoke and through their words and actions helped to build this country and create a reality from nothing but a dream.

Sir, to be here on my own wings is very special. I have for a long time been around legislatures. My father, Robert J. Boyer, was for 17 years a member of the Ontario legislature. I worked in these precincts for Heward Grafftey when he was a Member of Parliament, and later for the Hon. Robert Stanfield when he was Leader of the Opposition. I also had a stint at Queen's Park working for the Attorney General of Ontario, Arthur Wishart. It was a great learning experience but now, as I say, to be able to come into this famous Canadian House of Commons and have my own seat from which to address other Members is a great honour and something that I will treasure for as long as I am sent here by the electors of Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Indeed, Sir, I recall coming here with my late mother, Patricia M. Boyer, many years ago and sitting in the gallery. I guess at about age 12 I formed the dream that some day I, too, might sit in this Chamber. I just thank God that I live in a democratic country where we, men and women, have the freedom to follow our dreams. Through the democratic pro-

cess, with help and perseverance, we can help make things happen in our political system.

I am not the first person with the name Boyer to be in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. There was Louis-Alphonse Boyer who was born in Montreal in 1839. He was a lumber dealer and operated a model farm at St. Lambert. In fact, he was mayor of St. Lambert before being elected to this House in 1872. He was a Liberal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyer: Then came Gustave Benjamin Boyer. He was born in St. Laurent in 1871. He was a journalist and a public lecturer on agriculture for the Quebec Government. He was founder and editor of *Écho de Vaudreuil* and he was elected to this House of Commons in 1904. He, too, was a Liberal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyer: There was another Boyer, Arthur Boyer, who never made it to this Chamber, although he was a Senator in the other place. He was born in Montreal in 1851. He was president of La Canada publishing company and he too, as the Hon. Members opposite will be happy to hear, was a Liberal.

● (1110)

But now, Mr. Speaker, things are afoot in this country. Times are changing and I am very happy to stand in the House bearing that same name, not as a Liberal but as a Progressive Conservative—the first Boyer. This reflects the profound change in the country. It is a sign of the times. There is some question whether my name is pronounced “Boy-er” or “Boy-yea”. I was born at Bracebridge in central Ontario and the other day—

[Translation]

—a CBC reporter asked me whether my name was pronounced “Boy-er” or “Boy-yea”, and I answered that it was a perfectly good bilingual name for a bilingual country. Either language works with a name like mine.

[English]

By whatever name I am called, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure Hon. Members opposite will find many names to call me during the time I am here, I am proud to be the Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore. It is an honour to represent the men and women of that riding and I shall treat their support for me as a trust.

On September 4 the government of this country was overthrown by lawful means. As I have written in one of my books, *Political Rights*, we Canadians too often take for granted the liberties and freedoms which we enjoy in this country and the