

The Address—Mr. McCutcheon

ADDRESS DEBATE

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Jack Cullen for an address to His Excellency, the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Nesbitt.

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent):

At the outset I should like to point out that my participation in this debate will not be lengthy. However, there are a few things I should like to get off my chest.

I am distressed about the way parliament is heading, and I am distressed about the undercurrent of dissatisfaction with Parliament running through so many of the speeches which have been delivered during this throne speech debate. I am particularly concerned about the continuing threat in virtually every government backbencher's speech about change in our procedures. I can share their concern for the way things are going, but the suggested solutions put forward by some of them I submit are not the answers to the problems.

The hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen) set the tone for this debate and I congratulate him on the able manner in which he carried out his assignment. He is a next door neighbour of mine and a pretty close personal friend. I must say that in his speech he repeated a lot of platitudes, and he particularly stressed making parliament relevant. I know he will not object if I quote what he said, and this appears at page 6 of *Hansard* for October 23, 1969:

In the various committees of the house, this legislation is reviewed, criticized, amended and reported back to the house. This legislation is being subject to amendment and these amendments are debated.

Isn't that something! If I may quote further from the hon. member's words appearing at the same page of *Hansard*, he said:

I would like to see debates on important legislation hold the attention of this house, of the various media of publicity and the citizens of our country. I would like to see this House of Commons filled with members during the debating period.

To that, I say amen! No one will argue against this proposition, but I submit it might have been more relevant for us to ask why this situation occurs. I have my own ideas on

is being legislated out of business by government, the price of gold having been pegged at \$35 an ounce U.S. since 1934. Since emergency gold mining assistance is due to expire at the end of 1970, my greatest effort in this session will be to influence the government's decision to extend and improve this aid in order to reinforce this industry.

With the discovery of the Texas Gulf base metals deposit, the whole economic picture of our area has now changed. Our economic base has been strengthened, and its stability established. The construction of a smelter next spring with the help of \$6½ million in incentives from our regional economic expansion department will again reinforce our economic structure, providing a substantial number of new jobs and acting as a shock absorber to our gold industry. This has changed our residents from pessimists to optimists again, yet many problems still exist and more will appear as a result of the new developments. New employees for the plant will create a serious housing shortage. We are presently looking into this problem. Solutions will have to be found and, of necessity, with this government's help, Mr. Speaker, solutions will be found, not only as a result of the efforts of politicians but also the enthusiasm, initiative and effort of our citizens. Our people are aware that the government cannot solve problems alone, cannot live their lives for them, and so they will accept the challenge. They will meet their responsibilities and they will develop a better Timmins riding for our young people, for all our people, and for Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before recognizing the hon. member for Lambton-Kent (Mr. McCutcheon), pursuant to Standing Order 40 I might inform the house of the questions to be raised on the debate at the time of adjournment. They are as follows: the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken)—pollution, cancellation of forestry research branch; the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—pensions, retired civil servants, inquiry as to increase; the hon. member for High Park (Mr. Deakon)—health and welfare, control of use of pesticides.