

The Address—Mr. Paul

If employment was maintained at a high level there would be a reduced demand for unemployment insurance. The miners with their earnings would be able to purchase the necessities of life, many from the factories of Quebec and Ontario, thereby maintaining a high level of corporation profits from which the federal government draws taxes. If the miners were employed and able to pay their municipal taxes there would be less demand by the municipalities on the provincial treasury, and hence on the national purse.

I have dwelt in this address chiefly with two major problems that confront this parliament, namely unemployment and the crisis in coal. Perhaps I have done so to the neglect of some of the other important points covered in the address of His Excellency yesterday. But I am thankful that my party and this government does not content itself with looking always at the bright side of the picture without facing up to the very real difficulties that are presented. It is the intention of the government, as it is surely the intention of this parliament, to engage in a frank, serious, mature and responsible discussion of these issues.

It is on this note and with great pleasure that I move, seconded by the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanaudiere (Mr. Paul):

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Right Honourable Georges Vanier, Governor General:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons 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.

(*Translation*):

Mr. Remi Paul (Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanaudiere): Mr. Speaker, prompted by a strong and sincere feeling of gratitude, I think it is my peremptory duty to thank the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) for the great honour he conferred upon me when he asked me to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I am sure that it was only due to the warm reception tendered to him in my riding in September 1959, during his visit in the province of Quebec, that I was chosen to second the address. It was not a recognition by the Right Hon. Prime Minister of the particular qualities of the member for Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanaudiere—if he does possess particular qualities—but an indication of his attachment and consideration for the people of my constituency, who are still putting their trust in the exceptional qualities of the head of this government with the assurance that in the future, as in the past, they will give him their strongest support.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

At the outset of my remarks I proudly salute the men and women of my constituency who have given me their support, and I assure them of my devotion and loyal co-operation with regard to the solution of the difficult problems they sometimes have to face whether they like it or not.

I greatly appreciate your kindness to me, hon. colleagues. Had I not been assured of it, I would have hesitated before accepting an honour, bestowed for the first time upon the representative of the riding of Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanaudiere in this house.

I thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for this token of esteem for my fellow citizens of the province of Quebec, and more particularly those of the constituency of Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanaudiere.

In seconding this address I have the privilege of being the first to congratulate the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis) for the magnificent speech he just delivered. His constituents may be truly assured, that the voice of Cape Breton South in this house has never been so warm, so convincing, so practical.

Mr. Speaker, may I offer you my respectful compliments without further delay. On behalf of all hon. members, I wish to commend you for the admirable way in which you have been discharging your difficult duties. All of us appreciate your tact, your keen mind, your impartiality, your firmness and the wisdom of your decisions.

May I extend my warmest congratulations to the Secretary of State (Mr. Dorion), whose recent appointment to that office is an honour to Quebec. In the mind of the Prime Minister, it was no doubt intended as a recognition of his qualities as a distinguished lawyer, a well-rounded humanist, an expert in constitutional law, a tireless worker and a sincere man, dedicated to the interests of the Canadian people, and particularly those of the province of Quebec.

(*Text*):

It is a pleasant duty to congratulate the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Flemming), the new and first Minister of Forestry upon his appointment. The son of a former premier of the hospitable and progressive province of New Brunswick, himself premier of the province for almost eight years, the hon. member by his parliamentary experience acquired in that office and by his continuous business relationships as director of various logging companies was more than qualified to fill the office and to assume the responsibilities of Minister of Forestry.

I wish the minister a long and happy career, one that will be fruitful for all Canada.