

have been approximately double those of the previous government. The appropriations this year for the navy are treble those of the late administration. Appropriations for the air force are approximately five times those of the previous administration. Appropriations for the three services prior to this year were almost treble those of the previous administration.

When we compare our national defence with that of Australia we find that we are falling a long way behind. In Australia the national defence premium is \$6.73 per capita; in the United States it is \$7.58, and in Great Britain, \$27.21. Canada's is \$3.17. The only countries doing less for their own defence than Canada are a few of the minor Central American republics. We are proud of our association with the great British commonwealth of nations. We are greatly appreciative of the part played by the British fleet in preserving our shores from the menace of invasion. We recall with gratitude and appreciation the words of President Roosevelt uttered at Queens university, when he came last summer to join with our own Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in dedicating the new international bridge at Ivy Lea. He said:

The Dominion of Canada is part of the sisterhood of the British empire. I give to you assurance that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other empire.

We are indeed a fortunate people to have such friends.

While we have a Department of National Defence, I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, how it would be to have a Department of Peace. It may be just as necessary to have a Department of Peace as a Department of National Defence, and I think the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. MacKinnon), who has just been appointed to the cabinet, without portfolio, could fill the position of Minister of Peace very creditably. Of course, he would have to work in conjunction with the Department of External Affairs, and his assistance would afford great relief to the Prime Minister in carrying out his duties as Secretary of State for External Affairs.

We hear a great deal from the opposition about this being a do-nothing government, but I want to say in closing that no government in history has gone so far in putting its election pledges into effect as has this government. They have grappled with many problems which had no direct bearing on their platform and to which no reference was made in the

platform. They certainly did not pass legislation only to have it referred to the courts and declared ultra vires; and I am satisfied that the people of Canada, when they know the whole story, will approve what has been done by this government and will return it to power whenever an election takes place.

I shall vote, Mr. Speaker, for the main motion and against the amendments.

Mr. C. R. EVANS (Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I wish first to add my words of congratulation to the mover (Mr. Matthews) and the seconder (Mr. Chevrier) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It was a gratification to us coming from western Canada to be honoured by having the junior Liberal member from the west chosen to move the address, and I am sure we are all agreed that he acquitted himself well in his first attempt at speaking in this House of Commons. We are indeed pleased to have the hon. member for Brandon representing in this house the Liberal cause from western Canada.

I also wish to congratulate the hon. member for Stormont upon the excellent manner in which he delivered his speech in both English and French. We of the English-speaking race often envy the French-Canadian for the fluency with which he can speak in both the official languages of the house.

I should like also to extend my congratulations to the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion) upon his election to the leadership of the Conservative party of Canada. I have one particular wish for him, and that is that for many years he may remain leader of the opposition in this House of Commons.

It is gratifying to know, Mr. Speaker, that our king and queen intend to visit Canada this year. We in western Canada look forward to their visit with great expectations. The hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Bradette), in addressing the house to-night, expressed the wish that the king and queen might visit northern Ontario. We in the southwestern part of Saskatchewan and the people in the southeastern part of Alberta are naturally disappointed that their majesties' itinerary as at present arranged permits of no stop at any point between Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat. That leaves a long stretch of three hundred miles in southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta where the school-children and our young people will not have an opportunity of seeing their majesties.

During the course of this debate we have heard a good deal of criticism of the distribution of relief in western Canada, and