

Wagner). His reference to anti-American bias, obviously directed toward our party, was completely unjustified, particularly within the context of the topic embraced by the resolution.

As Canadian citizens who prize Canada's long and honourable world reputation as a country of non-aggression, a country without territorial ambitions, we in the New Democratic Party side only with humanity, as did all parties in the House during the debate on this resolution. I can, however, easily forgive this slight to my hon. friends and to myself on the grounds that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe is also a new member and, therefore, probably extremely inexperienced.

Mention of anti-Americanism leads me to the consideration of relations within our own country. There are those in my own province of British Columbia who have expressed antipathy toward French-Canadians just as there are, no doubt, those in the French parts of Canada who harbour similar feelings toward English-Canadians. Without going into the historical, cultural or political reasons for such feelings, let me simply say that I, along with hundreds of thousands of other people west of the Rockies, reach out a hand of friendship to our fellow Canadians and invite a reciprocal response. For I believe that the ties which bind us as Canadians are stronger than the differences which separate us.

If I may speak personally for a moment, may I mention that my own family has participated in exchange programs with French families, and I know we are all the richer for the experience. I am pleased to note the signs of increased co-operation among some of the western provinces and Quebec, as evidenced by the talks between the welfare ministers of British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec in connection with social welfare problems. Any measure or action which strengthens the unity of the Canadian people is a welcome one to me, for, if I may quote the first Canadian born Governor General of Canada, Vincent Massey;

I believe that Canada is one, and that if our minds dwell on those things which its hearts have in common, we can find the unity as a whole.

Now I wish to revert to the affairs of my province and particularly to my own riding of Burnaby-Seymour. Most Canadians will have watched the BBC series "The Forsyte Saga" in which the Forsyte family dominated the financial scene in England throughout the fictional generations of John Galsworthy's series, just as western Canada has for years been dominated by the financial might of eastern interests. The main character in the series, Soames Forsyte, drew great comfort in his old age from reflecting that by then all his enemies were dead, had gone bankrupt or were living in British Columbia—the latter, in his view, being a fate worse than death.

Throughout the decades a similar attitude of contempt for the legitimate aspirations of British Columbia has been displayed by successive Liberal and Tory governments. There is, however, a new spirit in the west and increasing evidence that western provinces are determined to seize the initiative in order to bring about much needed social and economic development.

There is also, Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne. In common with other members of my party and with all

*The Address—Mr. Nelson*

British Columbians, I shall watch with cautious optimism for the enactment of those measures which appear to hold some promise that British Columbia will, in fact, eventually become a part of Canada. I have in mind the proposals for an improved national communications policy, for increased co-ordination of provincial and federal programs, the conference on western economic opportunities and, in fact, all those measures which are designed, in the words of the speech itself, "to rank high on an agenda for western development". Perhaps I should use the word "scepticism" rather than the term "cautious optimism", in view of the fact that of the 29 bills promised in the last Speech from the Throne, six were passed, 15 were introduced but not passed, and eight were not touched at all.

One of my constituents—not a supporter of my party, incidentally—expressed the feelings of many British Columbians when he wrote:

If they (the present government) act responsibly and are put out of office on some minor issue it will not bode well for the party which does it, for there are people like me who, though they have taken no part in party politics, are apt to be fighting mad.

He went on to say:

This is no time for petty issues and minor differences. The country is in bad shape, and we need co-operation in parliament.

I have no doubt that similar sentiments have been expressed by thousands of Canadians to all ministers of the House. The position taken by our party in respect of our conditional support of the present government has been derided by speakers of the official opposition, yet this body has displayed an almost indecent willingness to adopt insidious measures to bring down the government and would gladly engage in a marriage of convenience or any other kind of marriage in order to gain the power they lust after. They may in time get that opportunity, but let them be patient yet a while.

Anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of British Columbia will see Vancouver as the spout of a funnel through which most of the goods and services are distributed throughout the rest of the province. My riding, Burnaby-Seymour, is a suburb of Vancouver and has a population of approximately 88,000. It is of the inevitable expansion into and through Burnaby-Seymour that I wish to touch on first. The entire lower mainland region, and particularly Burnaby-Seymour, is vulnerable to the unrestrained and opportunistic development of those who would put profit ahead of the quality of life when, indeed, it is possible with proper planning to have both.

Our municipal planning departments are well aware of the problems and have made designs for the planned growth of the entire lower mainland area. In pursuit of planning they have formed the greater Vancouver regional district council which studies such matters as regional planning, transportation, pollution control, financing and public housing. This group recognizes that no one municipality can establish the goal of creating what it terms a "liveable region". There must be a comprehensive transportation system throughout the entire metropolitan area, for one example and, for another, the creation of banks of large areas of undeveloped land in order that there be scope for long-range planning.

Experience has demonstrated that economic and social development on a large scale may be planned by local