

The Address—Mrs. Appolloni

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister) moved:

That Charles Turner, Esq., member for the electoral district of London East, be appointed Deputy Chairman of committees of the whole House.

Motion agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien):

That Mr. Denis Ethier, member for the riding of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, be appointed Assistant Deputy Chairman of committees of the whole House.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

[English]

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MRS. URSULA APOLLONI AND
SECONDED BY MR. RAYMOND SAVARD

The House proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, if I may, I will first make a little reference to the appreciation I feel for the presence of page girls in this august assembly. While I commend your wise decision in breaking with restrictive tradition, may I also express the hope that the presence of these young girls will herald the entry of many more women into active participation in the political life of our nation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Appolloni: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his cabinet colleagues for the honour extended to the riding of York South in asking me, its representative, to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I am well aware of the fact that this honour is given, not because of any particular merit on my part, but because of the very real interest that the Prime Minister has in the people of this section of Toronto.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Appolloni: And York South is people, Mr. Speaker, and to describe them is to describe a vibrant and vital part of our Canadian community. Like myself, many of the people of York South were not born in Canada. They came here from various countries and from various cultures. I will not attempt to list them lest inadvertently I omit even one.

Their reasons for coming here were also varied: some came to escape the repressive tyrannies of dictatorial government;

[Mr. Trudeau.]

others came because their homes had been threatened or even destroyed by fratricidal strife; still others fled the terror of battlescarred Beirut while yet more were the victims of racism. For many, the reason was material, but all sought a measure of human dignity and individual freedom such as no other country in the world can possibly give.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Appolloni: And as they observed the riches, both physical and spiritual, which Canada offered them they turned with fervent conviction to their adopted country and threw in their lot with her. In the short period in which I have had the honour of representing York South, more than 8,000 people have applied for and have been granted citizenship. All of the newcomers, Mr. Speaker, and the thousands who took that important step before them are Canadians by conviction and, like myself, humbly thank God that we are Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Appolloni: Conscious as we are of our many blessings, it is little wonder that the people I have just described will regard with some dismay and even distress the present climate of dejection and even despair which appears to be the hallmark of our times.

The people of York South are realistic people. They know we are living in times of crisis when the consuming flames of simultaneous inflation and unemployment are being fanned by internal dissatisfaction and even threatened secession. Awesome problems indeed, Mr. Speaker, but not insurmountable ones.

But perhaps Canada's most insidious problem of all is persistent and destructive self-criticism. I do not refer to healthy and constructive criticism which is vital to a democracy in order to correct human error, to intensify human effort and urge human improvement, but to a paralyzing and corrosive denial of the good and to an obliteration of vision to which we can all aspire if only we have the courage and the determination to grasp our opportunities.

Instead of offering to the world an arsenal of hope, we continually magnify our own problems. Rather than generate self-confidence and the momentum to be gained therefrom, we bicker, taunt and castigate our fellow man and, in doing so, we not only discourage others but we discourage ourselves. And discouragement can become a way of life and ultimately a self-fulfilling prophecy. I believe that the men and women who can lift the world upward and onward are those who encourage more than criticize. In fact, I do not believe there is a statue in the world today erected to a critic.

What we need is a calm, rational diagnosis of our ailments and in a spirit of confidence, courage and determination prescribe and apply the remedies. These remedies must not and indeed cannot be applied by the doubting and the spiritless. As Andrew K. Boyd said, there are important cases in which the difference between half a heart and a whole heart makes the difference between signal defeat and a splendid