

The Address—Mr. Coldwell

of some of the comments on both sides of the ocean during the last few weeks concerning the attitude of the other. I am confident that what has taken place from the time the President of the United States made his speech a couple of weeks ago and preparations were actively undertaken to bring about this meeting in Washington, as well as during the course of the meeting itself, demonstrates that reasonable minded people in the three nations—who are the vast majority—recognize the inevitable nature of the difficulties which have arisen. These difficulties they regard as facts, not as faults to be attributed to any of them.

I am sure what has been accomplished does, to a degree, implement that which the government had in mind in expressing the view that the economic stability of the western world was extremely important, as important possibly to resisting and therefore deterring aggression as military strength itself. Within the last week, I believe, reasons have been given, first of all by the representatives of the United Kingdom, United States and Canada, then by those who attended the meeting of the international monetary fund and, last but not least, by those who attended the meeting to implement the causes and purposes of the North Atlantic treaty, why aggression would be resisted, could be resisted, and therefore will not be undertaken.

Now, the hon. gentleman has said that many of these difficulties arise out of the great sacrifices made by the United Kingdom in two world wars. I am sure all of us have the greatest possible admiration for what was done in those two world wars, and the greatest desire to understand the lasting effects of those sacrifices as well as the conditions they have created and the necessity imposed upon us all to co-operate for the alleviation of the consequences of those conditions. Whatever decisions any of us have to make should properly be conditioned by our appreciation of the manner in which our share of this tremendous job of putting the world back on its feet can be done and will be done. I am sure that, although we will not be claiming we are giving leadership, we will not be found wanting in our willingness to do our part, as we have done in the past.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): First, I should like to congratulate the mover (Mr. Boisvert) and the seconder (Mr. Laing) of the address. I have been here on a number of occasions when that has been done and I say most sincerely that I do not think two new members ever acquitted themselves better than the two hon. gentlemen who respectively moved and seconded the address.

I should like to associate ourselves, too, with the leader of the opposition and the

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

other members of the house in expressing our sympathy with those who suffered loss and the relatives of those who died in the tragic event which occurred at Toronto last week. I suggest to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) that every consideration should be given during this inquiry to the strengthening of the legislation, if necessary, and the supervision of the building and equipping of our ships in order that such an event may not occur again.

On June 27 the Canadian people elected this parliament and the government received an overwhelming majority at the polls. On behalf of my colleagues as well as of myself, I should like to join in congratulating the Prime Minister personally upon that victory. As an older member of this house who has sat in parliament during the past fourteen years, may I say this to the new members. Whatever we thought of the government's policies, we always appreciated the unfailing courtesy and consideration the Prime Minister extended to every member of this house. I wish to join with everyone in wishing him health and happiness in the high office to which he has been called.

May I say of my own party that we are a democratic party and, as such, we accept the verdict of the people as delivered at the polls. We believe our policies and our program are sound. The election showed we have a substantial following in Canada. We are certain that, as in so many other respects, time will justify many of the proposals we have made from time to time as well as during the course of the general election. As for our policy in this house, we shall continue to do as we have done in the past: to advocate progressive measures and policies in the interests of the whole country and to support every proposal, no matter from where it comes, which seems to tend towards better conditions for the Canadian people. We shall oppose anything that we believe will restrict their freedom and their opportunities.

The overwhelming support accorded the government places an obligation upon the Liberal party to fulfil, during the lifetime of this parliament, the promises which the party has made for many years and which, in a number of instances, remain as yet unfulfilled. I would remind the government that we still lack a national social security plan, including national health facilities as free to all our people as are the public schools to our children. That is a target at which this parliament must aim. The senior citizens of our country, as the old age pensioners are now often called, still await the fulfilment of the specific promises made in the government's manifesto of 1945 and repeated on many