

spoken, and shown the full scope of their ability. I am all the more impressed by the memory of those true pillars of Canada as I find myself, for the first time, to be a part of this atmosphere of distinction and courage which they have created.

Allow me at this point, after the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken), the leader of the C.C.F. party (Mr. Coldwell), the leader of the Social Credit (Mr. Low), as well as my hon. friends the member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) and the member for St. Boniface (Mr. Viau), to pay a more special and intimate tribute to one whose great work I have been given the mission to continue. Let me repeat once more, on this solemn occasion, all the admiration and all the friendship that have bound me, since early youth, to that great Canadian figure, the Hon. P. J. A. Cardin.

With an unflinching dignity and an unflinching courage, this humble carpenter ascended the social ladder to become one of His Majesty's ministers. During his rise achieved by dint of hard work and devotion to duty, he has spread in all spheres the generous examples of a sound mind and a noble soul.

On October 19, 1946, Providence decided that his earthly career was ended. He was the sole survivor of the three most famous public men that French Canadians have contributed to Canadian history since Laurier. His political career has always been characterized by the greatest frankness and the staunchest loyalty. He has made the greatest sacrifices in order to heed the dictates of his conscience. It is in this frame of mind that he has served his province, his country and his party. Fiery, always in earnest, this champion of the people gained political victories in 1925, 1926, 1930, 1935, 1940 and in numerous other by-elections and general elections. Distinguished speaker, enlightened patriot, his sound judgment and his political views expressed with a convincing eloquence have contributed largely to the foundation of Canadian life. They have also enabled the Liberal party to remain at the helm of our country's affairs almost continuously since 1921.

In 1942, convinced that the government's policy of recruiting members for the armed forces was jeopardizing national unity, he gave another proof of his sincerity, and relinquished his portfolio and withdrew his support from his leaders. However, he retained his attachment and esteem for the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, deploring that unavoidable circumstances

compelled him to abandon his former colleagues to tread a different path, always in the best interest of the country.

The Prime Minister fully understood the real meaning of his act and, during the banquet tendered in Quebec City in honour of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, he paused to pay a moving tribute to this great man. The electors of Richelieu-Verchères have recognized the sincerity of a friendship which no political differences can put asunder.

My presence in this chamber, Mr. Speaker, is a guarantee of that friendship. Such is the path and example I shall endeavour to follow.

I do not delude myself. I know that the task ahead is a strenuous one; however, relying on my good faith and my strong will and, above all, Mr. Speaker, on the sympathetic friendship which you and most hon. members have always shown to me, I hope that one day I may be able to achieve that noble ideal.

I wish to thank the Right Hon. Prime Minister for having afforded me this opportunity of expressing my political opinions on such an outstanding occasion. I thank him especially for the great honour which he has bestowed upon me when he extended me the invitation to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

I have accepted this honour on behalf of the electors of Richelieu-Verchères.

The speech from the throne, which the right hon. representative of His Majesty read yesterday in the Senate chamber, has no doubt been favourably received by all members of this house.

This speech forecasts the work of the session and gives us a broad outline of the measures which will come under discussion.

It is worthy of note that in the speech from the throne special emphasis is placed on the leading part played today by Canada in international affairs. It enables us also to form a quite accurate idea as to the measures which will be submitted by the government to maintain economic stability and national security in this country.

Progress has brought deep changes into this world and given to international relations an importance such as they never had before.

In removing boundaries and abolishing distances, air transport has brought nations into closer contact. We are within 60 hours of the antipodes. It has been shown in the last war that the economic and armed forces of the new world shared very largely in bringing down the nazi vulture.

The importance acquired in the last war has given this country a Department of External