

*The Address—Mr. A. L. Smith*

that they might make themselves the dictators of the world. Upon preserving the liberties of our people certainly will depend the future greatness of our country.

Let me just mention one other thing before I come to the conclusion of my remarks, Mr. Speaker. It appears that in Canada the spirit of "gouge" is the spirit of the times. "Get all you can while you can get it" seems to be the slogan of all too many people. This spirit, if continued, will weaken our efforts to rise effectively to the defence of ourselves, of our great country and of the free countries of the world; and it will make it impossible to build a temple of peace that will really ensure peace.

I see, however, some bright things as well, of course. Canada has expressed her willingness to do her share in providing technical assistance to underprivileged areas of the world. I think that is good and it shows where our heart is. Canada also has indicated that she will take a part in the Colombo plan. These are some examples.

There is another thing I should like to mention at this time and that is the initiative that was shown by the Prime Minister when he set out by himself to seek clarification of the Red China note to the United Nations. I congratulate the Prime Minister on being so independent. I do not by any means share the views of those people who criticized him as having deserted his friends. I am convinced that his determination to resist any effort by other powers to push him into conformity with their views, if he is convinced within himself that that is not the way that Canada should go, will be supported fairly largely by the people of Canada.

In conclusion let me say this, Mr. Speaker. If the Canadian people really want to survive, they will face squarely the facts of our present situation. They will prepare themselves for the tasks that will have to be done. They will be prepared to sacrifice some of their comforts in the interests of an effective defence and co-operative effort to deter and prevent aggression. They will bend themselves to an all-out productive effort, and they will show a willingness to give a good day's work for a good day's pay. At the same time they will have to take measures to ensure that their government respects their rights and does not alienate their freedoms. They will have to repent of their errors and shortcomings; they will have to come to understand fully that our surest defence is going to be a change of heart, and that the price of peace is righteousness.

**Mr. A. L. Smith (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, I take advantage of the looseness of our rules in connection with this debate

[Mr. Low.]

because it is the last time that I shall have the privilege of addressing you as Mr. Speaker. I wish to conform with what has always been the practice and to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address. I did not hear their speeches but I read them with care, and I can say that they are in conformity with the best traditions of this House of Commons.

Some few weeks ago I announced to my constituents my intention of bringing to a close my life here in Ottawa. I did that because I have always thought my first duty was to them. I of course communicated with my whip and with my leader who have so generously given me their friendship and their guidance. I have no intention now of making a speech to you. I recall that the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) once told me jokingly that I was an evangelical. I have since thought that he spoke much more truth than fiction when he made that remark; because on an occasion such as this there is a tremendous urge to tell the world what its troubles are and to advance cures for them. You will be glad to know that I have successfully put down that temptation. In fact, it seems to me that I have spent my whole life in putting down temptations, but not of that kind. This is no time for me to preach, and I have no intention of doing so.

My specific business this evening is to do one thing among others which I will mention in a moment. First, I want to thank the staff of this House of Commons; and by the staff, I mean everybody from the gentlemen at the table to the most humble and the newest page boy in the chamber. I must mention the protective staff; not that I have needed much protection, in a way, but I think if I have any championship in this house, it is in losing my stick, my hat, my coat, my keys and my files. The protective staff have always returned them, and done it with a smile. May I say that one of the impressions I carry with me from here is the kindness with which all members of the staff—the dining room girls and everyone else—treat us members who are supposed to be little gods but who, after all, are just simple people dealing with other simple people. While speaking of the staff of the house, I want to say a word or two to the men of *Hansard*. Last summer when I had not much to do, I picked up a volume of *Hansard* and I read what I thought was a good speech. Then I found that it was attributed to me. You can imagine my shock on the discovery I then made. But I am indebted to *Hansard* for the excellent phrasing they used and which they attributed to me. I am inclined to think that I have been justified in one