

The Address—Mr. Cashin

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house; the said committee to be composed of Messrs. Churchill, Grégoire, Knowles, McIlraith, Patterson, Walker and Winkler, and that the provisions of standing order 65(1) be suspended in relation to the number of members thereon.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister) moved:

That Herman Maxwell Batten, Esq., member for the electoral district of Humber-St. George's, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house.

Motion agreed to.

● (4:20 p.m.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. RICHARD CASHIN AND SECONDED BY MR. JEAN CHRÉTIEN

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

Mr. Richard Cashin (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to thank hon. members for their applause and to express my deep gratitude to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) for the honour he has bestowed upon my constituency and my province in asking me to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I should like also to express the hope that all hon. members are truly rested after their unique recess. It is no doubt a tribute to the onerous task that is ours that so many of us were unable, during this recess, to visit our constituencies.

I could say, in passing, that in 1962 I had the opportunity of taking part in the throne speech debate. Not too many weeks passed before I was informed that I was not only no longer a member of parliament but that, indeed, technically I had never been one in the first place. I know that you will all understand, Mr. Speaker, when I say I hope history will not repeat itself. In view of the circumstances, there has been something of a departure from custom in that all hon. members

[Mr. Pearson.]

will not have a 24 hour period to contemplate the speech from the throne prior to the opening of the debate. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this occasion gives me the opportunity to reflect on some of the ideas, the impressions that have occurred to me as a young and new member of parliament about the institutions, about the direction of our country, not only in the immediate future but in the long term, in fulfilment of the destiny of our nation. But first of all I would like to make reference to my constituency and my province.

This old and historic part of North America became part of Canada some 16 years ago. This union has brought benefit to both Canada and Newfoundland. However, as hon. members can appreciate, Newfoundland had some very special problems in 1949 and today, despite the remarkable progress and growth of the past 16 years, some of these problems remain.

While they are of special importance to my province they are, nevertheless, in many respects problems which Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders share with many other regions and other peoples in Canada. Naturally, Mr. Speaker, I am thinking of unemployment, underemployment, and generally the struggle to participate to the maximum in the achievements of our age.

We are living in an era of unprecedented prosperity, productivity, and of scientific and technological progress of vast and often imponderable magnitude. There are, I would respectfully submit, two overriding challenges which are directly related to this type of society and which we share with a few other fortunate nations of the world. These are becoming increasingly the preoccupation of governments and people. Our response as a people to these challenges will determine the quality and the permanency of our society.

First of all, despite our great achievements and the great abundance of wealth that is Canada's and America's, there are today large numbers of people who seem unable to participate in the advantages of our time. They are the unemployed, the underemployed, those with low standards of education, poor physical or mental health. Some of these people live on farms which can no longer support them. Some of these people are fishing by virtually the same methods used in the sea of Galilee at the time of our Lord. Others, Mr. Speaker, are crowded into congested and blighted areas of our cities. Many are young people who have been unable to get a start and fit into our society. All over Canada there