

**Mr. Brisco:** Is this really what Canadians expect from us?

At the same time I am heartened and encouraged by the genuine effort of some ministers who give every indication of answering questions with sincerity.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Name one.

**Mr. Brisco:** I would like to digress from the main text of my maiden speech for a moment and appeal to the government for specific assistance. If Kootenay West had what its constituents consider to be their fair share of government support, it would not be necessary to make this appeal. But Kootenay West has suffered from financial disparity for too long.

I appeal to the Minister of Transport to pay particular attention to the transportation problems of this riding, and I urge the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson) to assist us specifically in the development of secondary industry. We have the workers, the electricity, the manpower and other essentials for the development of skill-intensive non-polluting secondary industry. Only through the untiring efforts of people in the community have we been able to attract any secondary industry.

● (2020)

Just as eastern Canada was at one time a rural area which later became industrialized, so also Kootenay West is a rural area which should have the benefit of further industry in order to establish a sound economic balance in the riding.

We do not ask for, nor do we want, a Los Angeles type of development, with homes and factories stretching to the horizons. What we do want and what we so desperately need, is employment for the sons and daughters of the people of the riding. Fifty per cent of these young people find it necessary to seek employment elsewhere. This, Madam Speaker, I am sure you will agree, is not adequate by today's standards.

While it is true that in this, my first address to the House of Commons, I have reflected doubts and concerns about the government, perhaps all of us can take heart and gain some measure of assurance from Proverbs, Chapter 11, verse 14:

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, my first reason for wanting to participate in this debate is that the very early paragraphs in the Speech from the Throne make appropriate reference to the more than 2,000 Canadians who are giving dedicated service in peacekeeping duties in Cyprus and the Middle East. This evening I would like to enlarge on that statement. I would also like to speak about the other important tasks being performed by members of the Canadian Armed Forces. In particular, I would like to talk about the way in which we must finance and pay for the work being done by the armed forces, especially in these days of very high prices and rising costs.

*The Address—Mr. Richardson*

I am certain that Mr. Speaker, of all people, will appreciate the importance of peacekeeping because he performs that function in this House every day. It is as a peacekeeper in the House of Commons that I wish to congratulate the Speaker on his election to high office, and also to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and you, Madam Speaker, on your appointments.

**Mr. Baldwin:** We haven't opened up hostilities yet.

**Mr. Richardson:** We have a peacekeeper for when we do.

It is several days since the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Duclos) and the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Lee) moved and seconded the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, but I recall their words very well. I must say that when the hon. member for Vancouver East was speaking about western Canada, he expressed some thoughts that are very close to my heart. I believe with him, however, that none of us are in this House as easterners or westerners. I think the mover and seconder of this address demonstrated very clearly that they can defend and argue articulately for their own areas, but they both do so as Canadians.

The Speech from the Throne speaks about the more than 2,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are performing dedicated service in peacekeeping duties for the United Nations in the Middle East. It forcibly reminds us that casualties are still continuing. It is true that the 11 men who were killed and the 19 who have been wounded constitute the highest cost that Canada has paid in its peacekeeping role.

When a Canadian soldier is shot and killed in his jeep, for many it is a news story or a statistic. Just a few weeks ago I went to Rimouski to attend the funeral of Jean-Claude Berger. I must say that when you meet his mother and father, his brothers and his little sister, and particularly when you learn how the people of Rimouski felt about him as an individual, you realize that his death is not a statistic, but a measureless human tragedy.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, I want to point to the hon. members of this House that when I attended the funeral of Private Berger at Rimouski, I expressed my most sincere condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Berger, conveying as well those of all hon. members on their behalf.

[English]

Despite the tragic human loss of this kind, and despite the other costs and difficulties of peacekeeping, I remain convinced that Canada as a nation and the Canadian armed forces have an important and useful role to play in supporting the concept of peacekeeping and in improving the practical methods of peacekeeping.

Whenever the problems and apparent failures are being discussed, I always find it useful to remind ourselves that peacekeeping is a very new concept in the totality of human history.

For centuries men in uniform have left their countries for only one purpose, to fight. Today some men in uniform leave their countries not to fight but to try to prevent fighting. I like to believe that we may be at the beginning of a new era. It may be a long time until there are more