

He said: Honourable senators, my first words in this chamber must be to thank all honourable senators for the warm welcome they have extended to me and also for the many kindnesses shown to my wife and to me since we came to Ottawa.

Secondly, I wish publicly to thank the Right Honourable the Prime Minister for having appointed me to this chamber. I can only hope that my endeavours will be such as to warrant that confidence which he has placed in me.

I would also like to say how sorry I am—along with all honourable senators, I am sure—that the Leader of the Government in the Senate is not with us at this time. We all know the reason why Senator Connolly has found it impossible to attend, and I am sure we all hope that his recovery will be both speedy and complete. However, his illness is such that only time can heal it completely; and I hope that Senator Connolly will be wise enough to refrain from returning to this chamber until his health is completely restored.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations on your having been appointed to your high office. I consider this an honour not only to British Columbia but to western Canada and especially to my home province. As you were at one time a citizen of Saskatchewan, we too rejoice in the fact that you have been appointed to this high office. We wish you well.

To Senator Bouffard, who is the acting Leader of the Government in the Senate, I extend my best wishes. I know that he will have the co-operation of all honourable senators in endeavouring to dispose of Government business with dispatch during the absence of Senator Connolly.

I would also at this time refer to the fact that I am replacing a very distinguished senator from the Province of Saskatchewan, the late Senator R. B. Horner. Senator Horner was, as you all know, one of the pioneers of Saskatchewan. He made an immeasurable contribution to the agricultural life, the business community, the religious community and the political community within Saskatchewan. It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for me to follow such a distinguished senator from Saskatchewan.

During that period when I had the opportunity of serving as Minister of Agriculture in my home province, I had as my Deputy Minister a nephew of the late Senator Horner, Mr. Harold Horner, who is an able, devoted and faithful civil servant. He is one of those people who has added greatly to the

good name of the civil service of my home province. It was a pleasure to have worked with him, and I look forward to his visiting with me on those occasions when he should find it necessary to come to the nation's capital.

My appreciation also must be extended to Senator Connolly for having asked me to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I realize that this is an honour that is extended not only to myself but to the people of Saskatchewan, and it is an honour which I deeply appreciate.

I would like now, honourable senators, to turn to the Speech from the Throne itself. I note in the opening paragraph of the speech that reference is made to Canada's Centennial which we shall be celebrating next year. In the Province of Saskatchewan we have just completed the celebration of our Diamond Jubilee, the sixtieth birthday of our province, and in my opinion the people who were charged with the responsibility of organizing those celebrations did an excellent job. I believe they have left a mark on our community that will be long remembered. It seems to me that the people now charged with organizing the activities of Canada's hundredth birthday will also leave a mark on this nation. Perhaps 100 years is not very long in the life of many nations, but I think it is an excellent time for us as Canadians to stop and pay thanks to the pioneers of this country for the contribution they have made, to review the progress of this nation, and at the same time to make plans for Canada's future development.

Of course in 1967 we shall be celebrating not only the centennial but also in that great City of Montreal we shall see the opening of Expo '67. On Saturday last I had the pleasure of journeying to Montreal with many honourable senators and members of the other place where we were privileged to view the site and to listen to some briefings from the people responsible for conducting the affairs of Expo '67.

I enjoyed that trip greatly, the more so because I had the privilege of being in Montreal last September and also about a year prior to that. On the first occasion when I saw the site I wondered what they were trying to do; they were moving huge quantities of earth into the area, but it was very difficult to visualize clearly what they were trying to do there. Then in September last one could see that the land had been prepared; the major expenditures had taken place in preparing the site and in putting in power, sewers and water. Most of this,