

The Address—Mr. Matthews

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but I see that his time has expired.

Mr. W. F. Matthews (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, my first words must be to congratulate the mover (Mr. Bourdages) and seconder (Mr. Browne, Vancouver-Kingsway) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I also extend my congratulations to the new Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Flynn) who will, we all know, do a fine job in his new position. We were all delighted with the selection of the new Deputy Speaker. The house is indeed fortunate to have a man of his standing and ability filling this important office.

Before I go any further, Mr. Speaker, may I say that I was somewhat riled by the remarks just made by the hon. member for Cartier (Mr. Crestohl) and I just have to get it out of my system before I continue. The hon. member made the statement that the speech made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) at the United Nations brought no results. I take exception to that. The hon. member is wrong as always because the Prime Minister certainly did a wonderful job not only for Canada but for the world when he made that speech at the United Nations. The Prime Minister renewed the faith of many people not only in Canada but in other countries.

I happen to know of one man in my constituency who was a Liberal candidate in 1953. He thought so much of the Prime Minister's speech that he sent him a telegram congratulating him on it. I have not seen the telegram but I was told that this man sent it and I am sure it is on the Prime Minister's files. Yet the hon. member for Cartier gets up and says that there were no results from this speech. The man who told me about this matter is very highly respected. I like to have respect for people but when they get out of line for political reasons and make statements such as that made by the hon. member a few minutes ago it riles me, and I must take exception to them.

During the short speech that I intend to make I am going to speak mostly about my constituency whose name I am seeking to have changed to Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. The reason I am doing so arises from the fact that economic conditions there are good and getting better. I know that there are many other parts of Canada where the same conditions prevail. According to leading economists of the country things will improve as the months go by and 1962 will be a banner year. This improvement is largely because of the sensible attitude of many Canadians who have made up their

[Mr. Crestohl.]

minds that they will not listen to the pessimistic and gloomy reports that have done so much harm to business, and who approve of the action that the government has taken to improve our economy.

Last week I was talking to a man who represents a large manufacturing firm in Canada. This gentleman calls on many retail outlets in Ontario. He told me that last year many merchants informed him that because of the cries of doom and depression many Canadians were cutting down on their buying. He said that many people told him that they were putting their money in the bank rather than buying many of the things they would like to own. This man went on to say that toward the latter part of the year customers had decided that these false cries of depression were not good for Canada. As this thought spread over the province, business gradually started to improve, Christmas buying was stepped up, and he now claims that Canada will have a very good year.

Why is there this cry of hard times, Mr. Speaker? What do these people who gloat over their gloomy predictions hope to gain by them? We are all supposed to be working and building Canada. If I had a man working for me who came to work with a sick and gloomy look on his face and spent the day whining and complaining, I would tell him to go and see a doctor and to come back to work when he was in a better frame of mind. What good is a gloomy pessimist in any business? What good to a city, a province or a nation is a gloomy pessimist who is always finding fault? There may be a place for these people but certainly it is not in business or in any position that is important to the people of Canada.

In every country there are sick people. Some have had accidents that have disabled them so that they cannot work. We have many people with no special trade. Many become discouraged and are not able to face the hard facts of life. All these people need encouragement and help, not a constant stream of gloomy predictions.

We hear grown men in mournful numbers say that people are hungry and have nothing on which to live. If there are people who are starving and hungry, these men who are talking about it should do something more than just talk. I have heard no word that these great friends of the needy, these great fighters for the poor and underprivileged, are doing anything to help them.

Canadians should analyse these men who are downgrading this great country. Check the lives of these men; find out if they ever did any thing to help our fellow men; find out if they ever did any work themselves; find out