

I wish to thank him for his complimentary remarks about me, and I can assure him that had I had the privilege of speaking first, I would have expressed similar sentiments about him.

I wish to welcome our distinguished Speaker who seems to be in the best of health, and I wish to offer him my most sincere congratulations on his recent appointment as chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Theatre School of Canada. It may be that under his guidance, the debates of this chamber will become more dramatic.

(Text):

The Honourable Senator Hollett, our new associate—and I like to think of all the members of this house as associates—we welcome here as a cultured and scholarly gentleman, and as a man with considerable legislative experience. Having sat as Leader of the Opposition in the Newfoundland Legislature he will not at once feel entirely at home on the Government side of this chamber, but whether his stay there is long or short I can assure him that eventually he will find no difficulty in feeling perfectly comfortable on the Opposition benches in this chamber.

He referred to all the provinces of Canada as liabilities. Let me assure him that we do not, even in the manner suggested by him, think of them as liabilities, and certainly not his great province of Newfoundland. It is, indeed, an integral part of our nation, and when it joined Confederation it added much to the strength of our beloved Canada.

The Honourable Senator Hollett spoke in very complimentary terms about myself and referred to the fact that I had from time to time given certain advice to the Government. I can only say that we on this side of the house have had no criticism to make of the Government in so far as the advice which has been given from this side of the house is concerned, because frequently the Government has taken notice of what we have said.

This afternoon honourable senators, it is not my intention to give any advice to the Government—in fact, I would not presume to do so—but I trust you will permit me to bring certain pertinent facts to the attention of the Government which they, in any event, should appreciate receiving.

I am not going to speculate on what is involved in the twenty-one items of legislation mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. It is indeed heartwarming to gather from the tenor of the speech that the Government has high hopes for the economic well-being of our country. I trust that its hopes and aspirations will be realized, and there is no reason why they should not be,

but it seems to me that the Government is going the wrong way about accomplishing this by refusing to face up to the actual conditions which exist in this country at the present time. It is of no help to delude ourselves into believing that all is well when all is not well. Nor do we solve any problems by branding as “doomsters” and “gloomsters” those who are interested enough in our well-being to ferret out the facts and to place them squarely before the Government and the public for their consideration.

I shall mention a few facts and give a few figures which make it abundantly clear and which will convince even the most partisan that there is much substance in the contention that our economy is not as sound and as robust as we would like it to be.

However, I would not have you believe that I am a pessimist. On the contrary, I am an optimist. I believe that given the right direction, there are great things in store for Canada. I am quite sure that our present faltering economy will move forward with its old-time vigour in the not-too-distant future, provided we face up to the facts and then endeavour to bring in legislative measures which will make it possible for our ills to be cured. By no means can the Government do it all, but it is essential to adopt a sound fiscal policy and to present to Parliament those measures which will create in our people the necessary confidence, with a resulting increase in the production of those things which go to make up both our domestic and foreign trade.

We talk about our booming economy, but how can our economy be said to be booming when the percentage of our people who are unemployed is the greatest of any comparable country in the world?

During recent months the Prime Minister has been making statements to the effect that Canada has less unemployment than the United States. With respect to one month only, namely August, that may be right, but as the *Toronto Daily Star* has pointed out in a recent editorial:

The Prime Minister has at his disposal unemployment statistics for the two countries which eliminate the seasonal factor and show basic trends. These are the seasonally adjusted figures, issued monthly by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa, and the Labor department in Washington.

Honourable senators, I have the average figures for both countries, taken from our Bureau of Statistics and from the publication *Economic Indicators*, an official publication of the United States Printing Office. I would ask to be allowed to put these figures on the record.