

The Address—Mr. Boisvert

for needy invalids. This would be looked upon favourably by the people of Canada.

Up to the present time, the government has provided for the blind, for the aged, for children; certain provinces grant pensions to needy mothers. The time has come to consider those poor unfortunates who, by accident or by birth, are crippled for life and gaze with sombre melancholy upon the happiness of others. A pension scheme designed to help them would ameliorate their plight. The kindness of the state would atone to some extent for the harshness of life.

Let us keep scientific progress in step with social progress and we shall drive away communism. Communism is the philosophy of despair. Whenever despair takes root in the soul of several individuals, there are men who are willing to change this despair into an instrument of power, provided those who despair are willing to become slaves. There are in Russia ten million forced labourers. Whereas Canada was the first nation to ratify the North Atlantic pact and whereas the Prime Minister was one of the first sponsors of this statute of liberty and security for the peoples of the earth, the communist members in the governments supporting the pact voted against it, in the name of peace. It is by avoiding within our frontiers racial and class struggles, economic chaos, that we will succeed in convincing the communists that, in the words of a French economist:

"Nothing has been found that could advantageously replace liberty as a means of ensuring to everyone the maximum amount of dignity and happiness."

He added:

"Therein lies the real solution of post-war problems, not only in France, but throughout the world."

In order that these things may come to pass, social progress must be as rapid as material advances.

The monthly bulletin of one of the larger Canadian banks contained the following statement:

In spite of all the new means of manufacturing what we need, we have not paid sufficient attention to one need in particular. We have not solved the problem which arises from the thousands of complications which the new way of life has brought into human relationships. Society has not bridged the gap between social needs and social science in the same way as we have bridged the chasm between material needs and physical sciences.

We must address ourselves to the future. We must make plans so that the needs of the future may be satisfied. For our own preservation and that of society and of the human race, we must devote all our energy to useful ends and bear in mind the social implications of our behaviour.

Canada is a democracy governed by a Liberal government. We hope that it will meet the wish of the Canadian people, who

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want to live in peace as free and happy men under enlightened laws.

The recollection we have of the King and Queen makes all Canadians appreciative of the recovery of His Majesty the King. Our prayers for the restoration of his health have been heard. Praise be to God!

I am quite conscious of not having performed in a manner commensurate with the honour that was done to me the task I accepted with too much temerity.

(Text):

Mr. Arthur Laing (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my first words in this parliament will be to express thanks and appreciation to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and his colleagues for having given me the distinctive honour of seconding the motion for an address in reply to the speech delivered most graciously yesterday by His Excellency the Governor General. I shall be ever mindful that this honour—and, Mr. Speaker, at the moment for me, this tremendous responsibility—is far less a tribute to myself than a tribute to the beautiful province from which I come, and to the people of my riding of Vancouver South.

It is most appropriate that, coming as I do from our most westerly province, I should take this opportunity of welcoming to the parliament of Canada the elected representatives of that great and beautiful province of Newfoundland. I do so in the hope and confidence that they will be happy here and that the province will grow and develop in the atmosphere of freedom and equality that is characteristic of the Canadian family.

This new parliament of Canada chose yesterday a Speaker to preside over its deliberations. Under our parliamentary system the Speaker is not only the first commoner, but is responsible for the preservation of the dignity of parliament as a whole. It was my privilege in the past to have known Mr. Speaker as the hon. member for Brantford City, and from the impressions then gained of his graciousness, wide understanding and deep sincerity, there was no surprise when yesterday his elevation to the speakership was acclaimed in all parts of the house.

To the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Boisvert), who has had the senior honour of moving this address, I tender my heartiest congratulations upon his splendid presentation today, tempered and qualified by the envy that is mine at the immense facility with which he used both our great tongues. He is to be congratulated also because he and his riding became the spearhead of the Quebec campaign which resulted on June 27