

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

make an important contribution to our knowledge of this problem and to our search for practical solutions. I am sure that all members of this house would wish to join me in expressing our admiration for this great Canadian of world stature and in wishing him success in his challenging task.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the speeches of those who moved and seconded the address in reply. I was very much impressed by those two young candidates when, last spring during the election campaign, I spoke in their respective electoral districts.

Their speeches last Friday expressed clearly and logically their interest in, and I would even say, their devotion to the common weal, generally, and to the rights of minorities, in particular, and confirmed my opinion that they will become outstanding members of this house.

I also wish to welcome all the members who have been elected for the first time and those who have been re-elected.

Looking about me this afternoon, I have the feeling that the members constitute a parliament of extraordinary calibre. It was pointed out to me that the average age of the members is lower than it was in former parliaments, but that does not mean that in certain cases, those who have replaced older members lack experience or maturity. On the contrary, many of the new members have already had extremely successful careers in other fields, and are capable of contributing immediately to the knowledge and judgment on which any good legislation depends.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) claims that the Speech from the Throne rather surprised and disappointed him. He said it was a failure. The contrary would have surprised us.

In my opinion, had the speech been dictated by the Holy Spirit himself to the governor general, the Leader of the Opposition would have deemed necessary to present a motion of non-confidence to the house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: I must say, therefore, that his opinion did not upset me too much. I did not expect him to like the Speech from the Throne, but I did not expect him to be surprised either, nor did I expect him to say of the speech that it was a "failure".

All through last spring he told Canadians that if they elected our government it would

be disastrous from every point of view. When the new cabinet was appointed, early last summer, he repeated that it was a major disaster. He should therefore not be surprised that the speech fell short of his expectations.

Still, certain aspects of the speech held his attention—we will come back to that later. However, there is one aspect on which I had not, until now, felt the need to speak and which the governor general did not bring up in his Speech from the Throne; namely, that of the monarchy.

I shall merely say that we are not of those who constantly feel the need to protest their loyalty in this regard.

I think that it is the responsibility of the opposition to oppose, but in my opinion there might have been a slight exaggeration when the Speech from the Throne was described as a failure.

I would not be surprised if the acting leader of the New Democratic party (Mr. Lewis) should feel compelled to move a subamendment to deplore its deficiencies. But what is important, Mr. Speaker, is what we are going to do in this house—in short what all the members are going to do to contribute to the formulation of a forward looking legislation which will meet the problems, and it is a little on that subject I should like to speak this afternoon.

• (4:40 p.m.)

[English]

During the life of this parliament we will be called upon to discuss many important issues. But surely the central questions we should be asking ourselves at the beginning of this first session are about the kind of country in which we want to be living and the directions in which we should be moving to build such a country.

Part of the answer to these questions is quite clear from our experience in the election. It is obvious that the Canadian people in all regions feel concerned as never before about the future of the country and the quality of life it will offer to the individual. They are enthusiastic about that future and have great confidence in it; greater confidence, I must say, Mr. Speaker, than the opposition has ever shown or than the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) managed to show in his speech this afternoon.

The people of this country want to live in a land with a rising standard of living, equitably distributed among regions and individuals. They want a social security system which will underwrite the risks and hazards of