

*The Address—Mr. Rowe*

in the chair. I also wish to congratulate the mover (Mr. Bourdages) and seconder (Mr. Browne, Vancouver-Kingsway) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. They are a further indication of the capable young men who are in parliament and I think the present government is very fortunate indeed in having among its supporters more young men with more ability and natural talent than I have seen in any group or party since I entered parliament. This is not a reflection on the splendid young members of other parties. One of the real differences, of course, is that there are more of them in our party.

Recently I have been described as one of the old guard, and I did not resent this. In fact, I am somewhat flattered because from my experience I realize that any government is better to have an old guard than to trust to the complacencies of those who seem to be off guard or the wilder illusions of those who seem to have no guard at all. I realize that many changes have taken place. The years that I have been in this house have been filled with change and challenge. In fact, I do not believe there has been any other period in the history of human affairs that has been more interesting, more exciting and more challenging. Since we began our sitting this morning, Mr. Speaker, the astronaut, Colonel Glenn, in whose safety we were all interested with the result that the house uniquely adjourned for a few minutes until he had landed safely, has been around the world three times.

Having been so long and so closely identified with the affairs that concern the lives of our people, one could not help growing and maturing a little in these swiftly changing times. I believe we are facing very difficult times and, as I have said, they are challenging. I feel that I have more regard for those who sit to your left, Mr. Speaker, than do many others in the house because there are few in this parliament who sat to the left of the Speaker longer than I did. I have a keen regard for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson). He is an exceedingly fine gentleman whom I have known for many years and I have a high personal regard for him, which increases my sympathy for him in view of the dismal uncertainties that he must see in his future.

I also have a keen regard for the few who sit to your immediate left, Mr. Speaker, in the left hand corner of the house. I am especially sympathetic to them today because yesterday I believe they lost their capable leader, the colourful and energetic member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue). In my view he has made a very important decision. I know he will be missed very much by the small group he was leading on the other side of

[Mr. Rowe.]

the house and I admire the British bulldog courage of the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) in endeavouring to pick up and carry on the difficult task from where the hon. member for Assiniboia left off.

I am not surprised that the hon. member for Assiniboia sought this spectacular divorce in such a hurry but I am somewhat alarmed that he has chosen to marry the old, tired Liberal party. In fact, had he consulted me, which he did not, I could have introduced him to a much more attractive political lady. I realize, however, that all's well that ends well so far as he is concerned.

I must say, however, that there are much colder realities than these passing phases in political parties. In my opinion we are facing a very difficult period and I feel that the problems we have before us today are problems that to no small extent were created by the complacencies of the party that carried on the government in the 25 years prior to 1957. I know there would be a lot of criticism of any government, for uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. It is obvious to me that the complacency that prompted the former government to depend so much on the sale of raw products and pay so little attention to the promotion of secondary industry has cost our Canadian economy a very high price. The construction of sprawling factories and fancy bungalows seems to have prompted us to feel that no one else has done as well as we have. This is not true. In the last 25 years following the great war many of the leading industrial countries have had twice the industrial expansion that Canada has had.

It is true that we have sold our raw resources, the products with the least labour content in them. We took the money and we thought we were doing very well. There is always great national pride in any country. This careless trend, Mr. Speaker, has certainly been brought about by the extraordinary resources we had available for the countries of the world during the war and post-war periods. I know that this trend cannot be changed overnight. This situation did not develop during an election campaign. It is not going to be settled in any one term of office. It developed over several terms of office, but we have already conspicuous signs of improvement because we have the first favourable commodity trade balance that we have had in the last nine years. This is in bold contrast to the gigantic adverse balances we have had over many years, sometimes approaching a billion dollars. These unfavourable balances have contributed greatly to the international deficit position in which we are today, where we have fixed charges approaching a billion and a half dollars.