

*The Address—Mr. Basford*

and good wishes upon entering their new portfolios.

I should like, in addition, to welcome to this house, and to congratulate them upon their election, the two new members from Montreal, the hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) and the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Leblanc). I welcome them with more than the usual parliamentary courtesy. The hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) and the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Gregoire) try to tell us that they are the spokesmen of the French speaking people of Canada. Their hysterical and destructive statements are given great prominence in much of the English press of Canada, sometimes to the exclusion of all other statements. The people in my part of the country, British Columbia, often get the impression that the views of these members are the views of all French speaking Canadians. I particularly congratulate the new members because their victory is demonstrative proof of the fact that the hon. members for Villeneuve and Lapointe were turned down by the voters. They are not in fact the spokesmen for French speaking Canadians.

I had hoped that my lessons would have progressed sufficiently far to permit me to congratulate the hon. member for Longueuil in his own language on the very gracious speech he has given. I do feel that anything of beauty should not be spoiled. If I were now to speak in French I would be ruining something of beauty. I do, however, congratulate my hon. friend, who has moved this motion, upon what he has said.

I should like to thank the Prime Minister for honouring the people of my riding of Vancouver-Burrard by asking me, their representative, to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I, as a British Columbian, could go on at great length about the beauty of our great province, of which we are all so proud. In fact, in the rest of Canada I believe we are often referred to as the Texans of Canada. The only difference between us and the Texans, sir, is that we do not exaggerate.

Mine is a completely urban riding covering an older section of the city of Vancouver. It contains some, but not very many, luxury apartments as well as many older homes, a number of which are now being torn down to make room for apartments and commercial developments. There are many in my riding who have a very small share of this world's goods, and have accommodation and living quarters that are a disgrace to a rich and affluent society. Like city dwellers everywhere, whether as property owners or as tenants, they are faced with the problem of

an ever increasing burden of municipal taxation. Our cities and towns, facing the rising costs of education, sewers, waterworks, recreational facilities, streets and all the other things our cities so badly need are desperate for financial aid. The burden of municipal taxes on property, either residential or commercial, in many cases is desperate. There are many who are having great difficulty in trying to keep a roof over their heads.

Ways must be found for a greater participation by the federal government in providing financial assistance to municipalities. The municipal loan and development act and the changes in the winter works program, for example, enacted at the last session are a great help. The amendments to the National Housing Act, mentioned in the speech from the throne, are measures designed by the government to remove some of the burden from municipal taxpayers.

One of those chosen to take part in this traditional part of the proceedings last year was from Ontario. I feel that in asking me, a person born in Winnipeg and now representing a Vancouver riding, to participate this year, the Prime Minister is indicating his desire to show in this tangible way the place that British Columbia and western Canada occupies in his thinking and in the thinking of his government.

As a British Columbian I welcome the fact that this government has been able to successfully complete the Columbia river negotiations, which had been completely deadlocked under the former government, and welcome the announcement that the treaty and protocol will be submitted to parliament for ratification.

I welcome the reaffirmation that a 12 mile fishing limit will be established this spring, and the announcement of a national fishery development program, and I am sure my hon. friends from the maritimes will agree on this.

As a westerner I welcome particularly the emphasis the government will place on increasing employment and raising the standard of living by strengthening and assisting the secondary industries of Canada. Last session we established the Department of Industry. This year further measures will be taken, and I emphasize that in western Canada our provincial economies are largely dependent on one or two major resource industries, and our desperate need in order to strengthen our economies is to diversify and expand our industrial potential.

I welcome also the statement that the government is negotiating for the expansion of markets for Canadian exports through the liberalization of world trade. In western Canada we produce in our basic industries