

The Address—Mr. Applewhaite

was brought in, and that it is the intention of the department to give that special allowance an opportunity to see how it works.

I want to express my personal thanks for the courtesy and consideration which the minister and the rest of his department have given to me on every occasion on which I have approached them on this subject. But I do wish to suggest that it would be the wish of the country that those old men who draw the war veterans' allowance should not draw less than the old man who draws the civilian old age pension.

The people of the Skeena district, Mr. Speaker, on whose behalf I have been speaking, do not suspect this government of being perfect. They realize that this government is composed of human beings, and that as long as human beings are human, and as long as this world is going to be an interesting place in which to live, human beings are not going to be perfect. And so they, and their representative, realize that at times there may be some reason for criticism or some places where something might have been a little better. But I want to tell you that the people of my district would sooner put their confidence in the sponsors of this speech from the throne, who mean what they say, than they would in the apostles of gloom and despair who presumably also mean what they say, and incidentally who in the past six months—and it has been my pleasure to be opposite them—seem to have spent a very great part of their time, effort and energy in twitting the Prime Minister upon the size of his majority and in advising the Prime Minister what to do with his majority, and in advising the majority what to do with their Prime Minister. That may not be hard to understand, Mr. Speaker. It is possible that the leaders of the opposition and some of their followers may have quite a feeling of responsibility for the size of this majority, because they helped to put it here.

I want to conclude on the note on which I started these rambling remarks. In company, I think, with every hon. member in this house, no matter where he sits, I would like to offer my personal assistance and co-operation to the government and to each

member thereof in so far as local problems of our district are concerned. I will even go further than that. I will promise not to support or endorse any expenditure or undertaking which I am not fully satisfied is in the best interests of the country. Quite apart from where we sit, we know that local ambition and local pride will cause many communities to ask for government expenditures which we cannot really state are justified in the public interest. I do not think any of us want to endorse that. I do not think any of us would want to support hare-brained legislation. On the other hand, I would respectfully submit to the government that we who are the elected representatives from the different districts and who have, or who should have, or else we do not belong here, an intimate personal knowledge of the problems of our districts, should have our representations and our views, irrespective of whether they are from the opposition or from the government side, given consideration. Our local knowledge should be given consideration.

I should like to say to the government that as long as they will continue to operate along these lines and to conduct the affairs of this country as they have been doing, with the willingness to serve, with the courage and with the faith in Canada's future that they have, they and we will continue to enjoy the confidence of the country.

Mr. H. O. White (Middlesex East): Mr. Speaker, as it is approaching eleven o'clock I would suggest that you call it eleven o'clock and I would move that the debate be adjourned.

On motion of Mr. White (Middlesex East) the debate was adjourned.

Mr. St. Laurent: I move that the house do now adjourn.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. St. Laurent: Tomorrow we will continue with this debate.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.50 p.m.