

The Address—Mr. Bell

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I can think of no words more fitting than those of Premier Louis Robichaud of New Brunswick, the premier of a province which could stand as a symbol of confederation. These words by Premier Robichaud were delivered at the Empire club of Canada, Toronto, on October 31 last:

This is, without doubt, a time when the voice of reason must be heard—not in angry argument—but in the calm and rational dialect of responsibility. That voice must become predominant in every province of the nation—in order that extremists of all persuasions will come to know, once again, that true Canadianism can swallow them up in its strength and leave barely a trace of their passing.

You may accept as fact that I am proud to be a Canadian and that I am seized with a determination to remain one.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I want first of all to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply, and I also want to say how pleased I am to be following two New Brunswickers at this time. The last speaker, the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska, was a friend of mine at law school, and I might say we are very pleased that he was nominated chairman of the NATO parliamentarians' group, because we know he has carried out his duties well. I agree with the remarks he made about unity, and we were very pleased that the premier of New Brunswick spoke out in the way he did. I disagree with many of his policies, however, and later in my speech I will outline my disagreement; but in this respect I think we in New Brunswick can be a very moderating influence in this matter of national unity.

I am also pleased to follow the hon. member for York-Sunbury, who spoke a short while ago in the scholarly way in which only school teachers can speak. He referred to the question of assistance to university students, and I know his remarks will be followed closely by those at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, and elsewhere.

This, Mr. Speaker, is a wide ranging debate, and it is difficult to find anything on which one can hang one's hat; I do not know whether that is because of the barrenness of the throne speech or whether it is for other reasons. I did note one part of the remarks of the Prime Minister, as reported at page 61 of *Hansard*, which has given me an opportunity to speak about maritime province matters. He said:

A third problem that exists and has always existed in Canada, is the differences—and I have just mentioned this in passing—in the levels of prosperity, income and employment in different sections of our vast country.

The Prime Minister's speech was almost a second throne speech, but I want to use those remarks as a springboard to mention some

maritime problems which are in my mind. I realize there are some in this house who feel that we should not be harping on our conditions in the maritimes as much as we are. I see the hon. member for Port Arthur has complained about this. However, I will leave problems in Outer Mongolia to such experts and deal with some matters which come very forcibly to my mind, particularly in light of the words of the Prime Minister.

I also note with some satisfaction the new ministerial appointments, and we will be watching the new ministers, or the old ministers who have new responsibilities, as the session goes forward. I was sorry to see that the former minister of transport went to a new department, because I felt that he had a fair-minded, constructive approach to the Department of Transport. However, at the same time I must admit I am pleased that a member representing a maritime constituency is now taking over that portfolio, and we will be watching every move he makes in carrying out the work of this department, which looms so large to us in the transportation field in the eastern provinces. It has been some time, Mr. Speaker, since a maritimer has taken on this responsibility. I believe the Hon. J. E. Michaud in the late forties was the last minister of transport from that area, and we are looking for great things. We know the new minister will have many problems with the air lines and other related matters, but he has the Atlantic development board and other maritime transportation matters before him, which matters are so important to our every day life.

One way or another I spend a great deal of my life around the waterfront of Saint John, and I should like to say that nothing looms quite so large for us as this matter of ice-breaking in the St. Lawrence. It is a grave matter, and we cannot make it less grave by ignoring it. It affects the entire province, because during the winter season many come down from the north shore area, to which reference has just been made by the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska, to seek employment for the few months when there is work.

Last year I made a complete review of the matter of icebreaking. I went back to early history and the promises made at the time of confederation, when Halifax and Saint John were given port status. I was willing to leave the matter where it rested with the Atlantic development board, and I said that in an unpolitical way. However, this past season has seen the most brazen attempts yet to keep open the St. Lawrence at the expense of Halifax and Saint John, with the help of the money of the Canadian taxpayer. Someone