

Canadian Centennial

leader Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, by Mr. I. Norman Smith, by the present Leader of the Opposition and by the present Prime Minister. The future which is our destiny will not drop into our laps. All who have thought about these matters will agree that we have to dream and plan for that future and that now is the time to take action along these lines.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1967, we will have the fireworks and we will have the speeches; let us hope we will have something more.

Mr. John B. Hamilton (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would not want the house to feel that I am taking the hon. member's resolution lightly, but as I looked over page 4 in our program for today and read all the items he has set down there, I could not help but get a glimpse of him in his library back in Winnipeg, while he contemplated the coming session. I could see him enumerating the items—minimum wages, annual vacations with pay, statutory holidays, industrial relations, the Canada Elections Act, the Income Tax Act.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): And health insurance.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): Then I caught a glimpse of him as he donned his dark cloak and took off on his broomstick out over the barrens and, in a scene reminiscent of Macbeth, he hatched this resolution from the witches' cauldron. Then of course in the cozy library again, when everything appeared to be covered, I see once again consternation and the hon. member rushing to the long distance telephone to Rosetown-Biggarr; the crackling of the wires and a voice coming over: "M.J.—M.J., have you got human rights covered?" Mr. Speaker, there is very little left—

Mr. Byrne: That was the telephone call that offered him the speakership.

Mr. Hamilton (York West):—that is not covered in this resolution, and if there were only the items which the hon. member has talked about today—the Queen visiting Canada, the scouts' jamboree, the British empire games, the paintings and the music—then of course we could all stand up in unison and say "This is a resolution we are all able to support."

Mr. Winch: Why can't you?

Mr. Hamilton (York West): But it seems to me there is a great deal more to this resolution than just the phrases we have heard read out today by the hon. member. As a matter of fact, for the period I have been in

this house he has filled the time almost completely by calling witnesses in many other parties.

Mr. Winch: Except you, since you changed your policy.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): They were pretty good witnesses.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): I think what we should consider is the background in connection with this resolution and the time in history which we are approaching. It is easy enough to say that the twentieth century belongs to Canada; as a matter of fact speakers all over the country indulge in that very generous phrase, but I think the twentieth century will only belong to Canada if we are prepared to put into it the really hard work necessary to achieve this goal.

When we in government consider this I believe it is necessary for us to also consider what role we shall play in preparing for 1967. I cannot help but go back to the performance of governments over the years. I think we can divide the governmental history of this country into two major phases, the first from 1867 down to the end of the first world war, a period of 53 years, 33 of which saw a Conservative administration in office in Ottawa, and the second phase from the end of the first world war to date, a period of approximately 37 years, 31 of which saw a Liberal administration in power in Ottawa.

During the first phase this country went through a tremendous period of development. There were vast developmental demands including railway transportation, the opening up of new territories, encouragement for new methods of production and the finding of new markets. It was clearly a period when dynamic action was required on the part of government. It fell to the government to support, inspire and often to initiate long-term projects of economic development and I would say that during this period the Conservative administrations were not found lacking in the courage and vision necessary to carry out these projects. These administrations can be given credit for uniting this country from one end to the other.

Some may say that during this period social planning was not up to the mark but we have to remember that during those days the demands of the population were not great. Almost every person at that time was a handyman capable of building his own home and a large proportion of the population owned the homes they built. During this period Conservative governments played an active part in the long-term economic development planning of the country.