

The Address—Hon. M. Lambert

other country has taken such broad and concerted action to deal with this situation as we in Canada have already taken by broadening the scope of supply and protecting those who are least able to protect themselves.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I shall not spend any time now in reciting the further important measures we propose to take, measures which are outlined in the Speech from the Throne. Despite all the problems that face us—and we do face problems—despite the erosion caused by inflation—and it hurts—when we look around the world we have reason to consider that we are a fairly fortunate people, and we intend in this government to do everything we possibly can to keep it that way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Edmonton West will be recognized at two o'clock.

It being five minutes past one o'clock, the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my sentiments to those expressed by other members during this debate to the member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) and the member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier) who, as young members—I say young in the sense of experience in the House—proposed and supported the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I know that this is a very difficult task. They are often not used to the atmosphere of the House at the beginning of a new session. Thus, the Throne Speech was read in the morning and the speeches in reply the same afternoon. I do not think that this would be the best atmosphere. It seems to me that it would be better to proceed the same day only with the reading of the Throne Speech. Then we could study it. This would be more realistic. We know very well that young members having read the speech in the morning are not ready at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to make serious comments in reply to this speech.

This means that these things were “cooked in advance” and, in this sense, it is unreal.

[*English*]

I should like also to join with others in extending my sincere congratulations to His Excellency on his appointment to office, and to wish him and Madame Léger a very interesting and successful term, and I do not suggest five years as that does not now seem to be the rule. I am sure they will bring their own charm and distinction to the discharge of the functions of that office. I may say that Canada has been more than singularly blessed by the quality of our vice-regal representatives since I came here in 1957, as a matter of fact, after the rule was adopted of having a Canadian act as the Governor General. We know

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

each of those who have occupied that office, and the more recent ones are fresher in our memories. Let me say without disrespect to your predecessor, Mr. Speaker, and mine, who occupied that distinguished position since 1967 when he took over under rather pressing circumstances on the eve of Expo '67, he left his own very indelible impression on the office of Governor General of Canada. We wish both Mrs. Michener and Roly, to some of us, now that he is no longer in office, a very pleasant life in retirement, although I see it is not exactly to be idle.

It was quite an experience to sit here before the luncheon recess and listen to our good friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) literally whip himself into a frenzy of political fury. He had to whip himself to deliver a speech in which I recognized a number of sentiments and arguments that have been put forward by a number of apologists for the Department of Finance from time to time. In the writing of this speech one can see some fine as well as some rather blunt hands. There was as well some political digging, which is a lot of fun. I am sure he was doing his best to get back one dig for every 10 he gets from this side.

Having looked at the speech as a whole, I note a welcome departure from the high-flying but clearly empty phrases of last year. We now find a compendium of proposals or promises delivered with one eye on the political horizon. Perhaps I should not say “one eye”, I should say that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his cabinet prepared this throne speech staring bug-eyed at the political horizon. They have come up with the simple phrase “Ask and you shall receive”, because this is the basis on which they are giving handouts here and handouts there. We must remember, however, that there is a good deal of distance between promising and delivering.

It is clear from the speech of the Minister of Finance that if he had not spent so much time trying to get in political licks he might have given the country what is required of the Minister of Finance at this time. He indicated he would be making a report on the situation regarding the International Monetary Fund, the Canadian dollar and the value of gold. These are the things on which the Minister of Finance should be reporting. Instead of that, he presented some cheap arguments about certain statements researchers dug up out of context from speeches and questions by my colleague the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies).

The key to this throne speech will not be, as suggested by the Prime Minister, the docile servility of this House in accepting and passing government proposals, not at all. We will look for what is contained in the budget, the proposals the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) will make in order to raise the money to pay for all the promises contained in the Speech from the Throne because we have seen that the government is distributing largesse on the basis of “ask and you will receive”. This involves a great deal of money.

● (1410)

Although I cannot do so this afternoon in the time allotted to me, I could take up twice the amount of time allotted on subjects which I think should be discussed, such as inflation, regional development and unemploy-