

The Address—Mr. St. Laurent

people of Canada: Look at the record of what we have produced; look at what we have supported. Yes, a world devastated by war needed the things that this country possesses, but do not let anybody close his eyes to the fact that in the last year there have been immense changes and that we are coming into one of the most competitive periods the world has ever known when men and women with a higher general average of technical as well as other education are going to be more productive than ever before, and when we can only meet that competition by the keenest kind of competitive development here in our own country.

The course we follow in the period immediately ahead in which we have such immense advantages because of our resources should be one designed for the long-term pull. This is no temporary emergency. We are told that combined defence against aggression is going to go on for a long time. We are not engaged in actual fighting in any part of the world. We are therefore in a period as close to normal as most of us will ever live through for the rest of our lives. The steps that are needed today are not emergency measures but permanent arrangements for putting and keeping our house in order. The speech from the throne gives little indication of anything designed to put our domestic house in order for the kind of world in which we are going to live during the years immediately ahead, years which offer more hope but more problems than at any time in a great many years.

I have expressed the views which I have presented today because I believe, and I am sure there are many others in the house as well as members of the party to which I belong who believe, that freedom within the law is the right of every citizen of Canada and that as an individual, or jointly with others, he has a right to set up a new business, engage in a new type of production, or venture in new fields with a possibility of reward which offers some return for the risks he takes. Success brings increased employment and prosperity for all. The loss is the loss of the person who has ventured that risk with the hope of success and the gains it can offer. Nothing else has yet been discovered which provides the incentive upon which an expanding economy can be built. This is no time to be limiting expansion in this young country of ours. Years ago we found that even with all our resources restrictive practices could prove disastrous to Canadian workers. Let us take no chance of repeating that mistake.

The difficulties ahead are not only those associated with preventing aggression. There

are difficulties related to trade and to the competition growing out of that trade. There are signs that this may present very great difficulties indeed, and in fact this is slightly hinted in the speech from the throne. But I am sure that whatever our difficulties may be, and certainly there will be differences of opinion on this subject, there will be no disputing the fact and there will be general agreement in this chamber that, if we tackle our problems with all the energy we possess, no country in the world offers to its people, and particularly our youth, the immense opportunities that are open in this fortunate land to those who have the vigour and the vision to grasp those opportunities and, looking beyond the present, work for the future with faith and confidence in what that future may bring to them and to all Canadians.

I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green), that the following be added to the address:

We respectfully represent to Your Excellency that the welfare of Canada is dependent upon free competition; and that the prosperity and security of all Canadians will be advanced by government policies which will restore markets for primary products and generally promote a high volume of international trade.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish first of all to express to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) my appreciation of the gracious words of congratulation and the good wishes which he has extended to me on this occasion. I think it is very fortunate that the situation should be such that on the very evening of the election of the 10th of August the Leader of the Opposition, without any acrimony whatsoever, accepted the verdict of the Canadian people as an expression of our democratic institutions. I think it is a splendid thing that in this house we should all feel, as the Leader of the Opposition does, that we are all here trying to do our best in accordance with our own lights for the good of our fellow citizens in this Canadian democracy. Though we have various approaches to the goal, the goal is the same for all of us, and we do, by the intimate and friendly contacts that are developed in the house, come to appreciate the sincerity of the views and motives of all of us in trying to serve the constituents who have sent us here.

I think a demonstration that similar processes prevail in our great neighbour to the south was evidenced by the visit, which gave us such great satisfaction, of the President of the United States here over last week end. I am sure we all wish to echo his words and his hopes that the time may be close when other nations of the world will try to follow the example of international relations as they exist and as they have been established