

he has yet received the report from the committee which is studying the question of pension rates.

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received it.

Mr. Patterson: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the minister whether he would now consider the advisability of further interim increases in view of the delay in receiving this report.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is now making a submission, not asking a question.

• (3:20 p.m.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. DON JAMIESON AND SECONDED BY MR. FLORIAN CÔTÉ

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. Don Jamieson (Burin-Burgeo): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Côté):

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Roland Michener, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

This, Mr. Speaker, is my first speech in this house and I know I can expect from you the tolerance and understanding for which you are so widely and properly noted.

It is my privilege to extend the thanks of this house to His Excellency the Governor General. We are proud, I am sure, that the duties of opening this historic session were performed so well by one who was so recently a member of this assembly. No one is more aware than he that he follows a truly great Canadian. Our deep sorrow at the passing of General Vanier is revived today by the proceedings of this new session. We recall the many previous openings at which he presided and the inspiration that flowed from him because of his love of country and his deep sense of dedication.

The Address—Mr. Jamieson

We remember too his most gracious wife. This house will never be more unanimous than in expressing the nation's gratitude to the Honourable Madame Vanier.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Jamieson: May she enjoy many tranquil and happy years secure in the knowledge that she is held in deep affection by all Canadians.

Our new Governor General is a fitting inheritor of the tradition of selfless service. Our respect and our best wishes go with him and his charming lady as they undertake the heavy responsibilities of this centennial year.

It goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, that I am honoured to have been chosen for this assignment. I even dare to suggest that, in some respects at least, it is appropriate that at this centennial session this task should be performed by a Newfoundlander. My province has a centuries old loyalty to the crown and we are pleased, as are all Canadians, that Her Majesty the Queen is going to participate in our national celebrations.

We Newfoundlanders, sir, also have a deep and lasting loyalty to Canada. Although we have been a province for only 18 years, it is encouraging and I am sure heartwarming to all of you to know that 500,000 of your newest citizens are participating enthusiastically and with enormous pride in centennial observances.

I have to confess, Mr. Speaker, that my own loyalty to Canada was given grudgingly at first. I voted twice against becoming a Canadian. When this status was thrust upon me against my will, I had to assay Canada's worth. A stubborn recalcitrant, I demanded that this country demonstrate that it justified and warranted my loyalty. After 18 years, and against this background, let me say without qualification that today I would choose Canadian citizenship over that of any other country on earth.

I and my fellow Newfoundlanders took little part in the achievements of Canada before 1949. Therefore I can say with less self-consciousness than most that Canadians deserve to be proud of what they have done. This country has survived and flourished because its people have been prepared to fly in the face of conformity. The very existence of Canada, I suggest, proves the claim that most worthwhile things in this world are done by people who, when they are told that their dreams are vain, go on to realize them anyway.