

*The Address—Mr. Homuth*

people of Canada not to eat bacon and other pork products, and the people, I believe, rose to the occasion.

There is one other reference I wish to make. I am pleased that the minister was not interrupted. Coming from a district like Waterloo county, where agriculture is very highly developed, I greatly appreciated the speech he made this afternoon.

Last evening a member of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Noseworthy) made one or two little jibes at the official opposition and read a letter which had been sent out by the South York Conservative organization. It was an appeal to join the Progressive Conservative association, and for a payment of one dollar the subscriber would become a member and would assist in defeating the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, an object which I hope we shall achieve, because I think it would be a good thing for the country. But I, too, have a letter here. It was not sent out by any political association within a riding, where they went to the post office and paid their postage, where they went to the printer and had their letter printed, and to the envelope manufacturer and purchased envelopes. This is a letter from the House of Commons, Ottawa, signed by Mr. A. M. Nicholson, M.P., national treasurer of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Franked.

Mr. HOMUTH: Franked; and with the House of Commons letterhead on the envelope. In this letter—and goodness knows how many thousands went out—is an appeal for funds, and the statement that they have been able to get a Rhodes scholar, Mr. Lewis, a graduate of McGill, to be secretary and organizer of their association; that he could get a position which would pay him a large salary out of which he could contribute a thousand dollars to the funds of the association, but that they wanted to keep him in their own employment.

What I want to bring to the attention of the house is a view I have always held, that no political party has any right to use the money of the taxpayers of Canada for the purpose of spreading its political propaganda or of trying to raise money for its operations. I am definitely opposed to such action. Furthermore, there is an old saying that people who live in glass houses ought to undress in the dark, and I think it applies to the hon. member for York South.

An hon. MEMBER: Have you another like that?

[Mr. Homuth.]

Mr. HOMUTH: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to confine myself to the remarks I had intended to make. I agree that it is a happy occasion to reconvene in Ottawa in the realization that the war situation is so much better, that after all we are now beginning to see at least the beginning of the end of this terrible conflict, with the allied troops winning victories on practically all fronts. But there is, of course, something rather saddening in the reconvening of a parliament. It has been my privilege, as a member of either the Ontario or the dominion house, to attend many new sessions, and always the occasion has not been without an element of sadness, because seldom have we met without the loss of some members. As we sit here now we begin to wonder in what direction our ranks will be depleted before another session comes, and how many more members will be lost to us by death. I wish to join with others who have paid tribute to those who have passed since the last session of this house; it is a source of great regret to us.

There was, however, another hon. member who has passed from this house, whose passing is not, I believe, so greatly regretted. He has passed to that "other place." I have never had such a high degree of satisfaction over a senate vacancy as I have as a result of that appointment—and I say that in no unkind spirit. But I should like to make this remark to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), realizing that suggestions from our side of the house are always welcome! There is an hon. member of his party who has endeared himself to everyone here; he is a French Canadian; he happens to come from the province of Ontario; and I trust that when the appointment of deputy speaker is made it will go to one who is held in such high regard by all members of the house. I refer to the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Bradette).

In his address the other day the Prime Minister asked us to avoid acrimonious debate, and I believe that, generally speaking, this debate has been on a very high plane. He asked us to cooperate with the government in trying to sell to the people, as it were, the various controls and restrictions which are necessary. I agree that we as members of this house have a grave responsibility. But we have another responsibility, namely that, if there are controls and restrictions which in our opinion are not in the interests of Canada, we must express our convictions in this place, the only place where it can be done. We cannot stand idly by and allow important matters to be adjudicated upon by the various boards throughout the country without saying