

At a time when we are speaking of a country which wishes to evolve and gain more importance through increased population and occupation of territory, instead of giving that particular region, which needs attention, greater representation, we are reversing the trend and taking away representation. We do not need fewer northerners in this House, we need more. Perhaps I have taken too long to bring to this House the true meaning of Nipissing.

[*Translation*]

If I have taken so much time to show everyone that the Nipissing area is, historically, an integral part of Canada essential in fact to its life, it is because I firmly believe that if we want it to continue to grow as an autonomous country, we must develop our northern areas. The scenery in the North is spectacular and I refer not only to Northern Ontario, but to Northern Canada.

We must change our attitude towards those areas. It is not good enough to introduce merely a few measures meant to please those hon. members who clap on their desks. We must change the whole attitude of the country. I do not merely refer to a vision of the North—such is not my purpose—but rather, we must realize that this is an emergent area fit to live in and in need of incentives. This is the reason why I have devoted so much time to describe my dearly beloved country.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to refer to the past servants of this House who came from Nipissing. Hon. members will remember Jack Garland, who died in 1964 and who was at that time the Minister of National Revenue. His death necessitated the by-election which saw the admission into this House of Carl Legault who retired last year. Both gentlemen devoted their entire time to the service of their constituents and their adequate representation in this House. I am sure this House will bear witness to their presence and the competence they manifested.

[*Translation*]

On the occasion of my maiden speech and heartened by the experience of my predecessors, I would like to undertake, Mr. Speaker, to always endorse pieces of legislation which will seem to me most likely to promote justice, social welfare, prosperity and peace, for every citizen and the country itself.

Therefore, with this purpose in mind—

[*English*]

It is in that spirit that I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lachine (Mr. Blaker), that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, the text of which is as follows:

To His Excellency the Right Hon. Roland Michener, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit upon whom has been conferred the Canadian Forces' Decoration, 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.

The Address—Mr. Blaker

• (1230)

Mr. Rod Blaker (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, may I join my colleague the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais) in paying respect to the family of Mr. Pearson.

[*Translation*]

He and many others both from Canada and abroad have, over the past few days, expressed their sympathies to the family of Mike Pearson, and their admiration for the life of the former Prime Minister of Canada. I would add only a single personal thought—that Mike Pearson was probably the personification of Canada as we know it—gentle, humorous, patient and tough. He left us a legacy of pride in him, of commitment to public service, and of concern not only for his fellow citizens but for all the peoples of the world.

[*English*]

It has been a custom of those who move and second the Speech from the Throne to, with the patience of this House, say a few words with respect to their ridings. I should like to observe that custom only briefly, and largely because it relates to another matter which has a great deal of importance for Canada at large. Each member of this House carries with him, of course, a certain pride in the history and geography, the people and the cultures he represents. It is a singular pleasure to represent the riding of Lachine for a number of reasons.

[*Translation*]

Historically, this House will recognize in Lachine the origins of our nation; the headquarters of the Hudson Bay Trading Company; the canal itself; the days of the voyageurs, when seven and eight hundred of those incredibly tough and adventuresome men headed out by canoe in the spring, for the waterways of Canada, to return months later laden with furs which were the original basis of the colony's economy.

The famous adventurer and explorer LaSalle was granted the seigniorship in 1666, and rumour has it that some of his men, with a view to teasing him a bit about his determination to find the route to China, established the name of the seigniorship as Lachine.

[*English*]

Members of this House who may be sticklers about translation may therefore choose to refer to the member for Lachine as a member of parliament for China. Four years later in 1670 the Sulpicians built a fort some distance away, the Fort de la Presentation. The area is now the modern city of Dorval and its airport. The present-day area of Pointe Claire began its existence in the late 17th century. Canada has been good to these three cities; today Lachine is said to be the most highly industrialized city on earth. Dorval and Pointe Claire combine with Lachine to form a remarkable trio of cities, containing 700 corporations doing extensive business as well as residential areas of calm and beauty. I have described this riding as a prelude to a subject which should never have become an issue in this past election, but which did in fact become an issue and I believe to the regret of many people.

[*Translation*]

In Lachine we are a bilingual community. Side by side and interspersed with one another, in combination with