

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend the new leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon), at the outset of his remarks, stated that he thought he would have to ask hon. members for their sympathy because this was the first occasion on which he has addressed the house as leader of the opposition. May I say to my hon. friend that I think all members of the house will agree with me when I say that they envied him his facility of utterance and of constructive criticism rather than of feeling that he was in need of any sympathy.

As one who has gone through the experience which my hon. friend is having to-day, I have quietly been recalling some of the sensations which I experienced at the time; and I must say that I should feel happy indeed if I thought I had made as good a presentation in my first effort as leader of the opposition as he has made to-day.

However, I do think he has fallen into one or two of the errors which I myself fell into at the time—no doubt, due to a certain immaturity and lack of experience of the way in which parliament views some things. One of those mistakes, I would say, was that my hon. friend had far too many grievances in his first presentation to the house. He rather spoiled his address by seeking to cover all the ground at once. And may I say that I think he devoted far too much of his time to the Winnipeg convention. I believe the country is still much more interested in the war, and the effective prosecution of the war, and more concerned that parliament should devote its time mainly to those considerations which are vital as respects the war, than it is in the platform which was drawn up by my hon. friend and his friends at Winnipeg and its presentation in this house. However, I do recall that when I was leader of the opposition, I had a feeling that it was part of the duty one owed to one's party to see that its platform was spread out on *Hansard* in as extensive a manner as possible, since that was one way in which it was easy for members of a party to see that all parts of the country were supplied with copies of the platform at the country's expense. I imagine my hon. friend has had that consideration in mind himself to-day.

Mr. HOMUTH: A part of our platform is now in the speech from the throne:

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, my hon. friends have taken about twenty-five years to catch up with the party on this side of the house in some of the policies which they are advocating to-day, and they are quite welcome

[Mr. Graydon.]

to any satisfaction it may give them in seeing some things which they have been recently advocating set forth in the speech from the throne.

In that connection, may I say that I do not regard it as an entire misfortune that all the parties in the house to-day should be taking a more profound interest in questions of social security than some of them have in the past. If that were not so, I should think that some of us at least had failed entirely to appreciate what is really fundamental in the great struggle which is taking place in the world to-day. It is a struggle which, above all, so far as the allied forces are concerned, aims at the preservation of freedom and, along with that, at a social revolution which will see that more in the way of equality of opportunity and more in the way of freedom from want and from fear shall become the lot of the great mass of mankind.

I appreciate very much my hon. friend's reference to the speeches of the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He said that he did not altogether like the fulsome praise that is indulged in at the beginning of sessions with reference to speeches made by mover and seconder, and he thought it was just as well to get rid of some of these traditions that have grown up. I am quite in agreement with him on the question of fulsome praise; but though I may be Liberal and not Tory in my sympathies, I am not prepared to say that I should like to get rid of all tradition. I think tradition has its place, particularly in the affairs of parliament, and I believe that the tradition which permits to members on one side of the house an occasional opportunity to say something that is pleasant to those opposite is a very good one. I do agree with my hon. friend, however, that the speeches which were delivered by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Harris) and the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Hallé) were exceptional in many particulars. They were exceptionally well delivered, and they were exceptional also in what they contained. I have read through both speeches since we heard them in the house; and I believe that, considered from the point of view of what, in a time of war, it is appropriate and most helpful for a member of parliament to say in the House of Commons, it would be impossible to find their equal in any speeches delivered on the address at any previous time.

I believe that this House of Commons was particularly proud to see two of its members wearing His Majesty's uniform, one coming from the old province of Ontario and the other from the old province of Quebec, addressing