

The Address—Mr. Caouette

tariff barriers, and to help them acquire some of our technology.

This country needs bold leadership as we enter our second century. This government and this parliament must set themselves the task of making Canada a place where every child will have enough to eat, where every student who wants to study will have the opportunity to do so, where every person who wants to work can find a job, where every family that wants to own a home can build one. We must make this a land where old people can walk the earth with dignity and young people can live useful and meaningful lives. Above all, we must make this a land that shares some of the gifts of divine providence with those less fortunate than ourselves.

There is a sentence in the throne speech which says that what we have tomorrow will depend on what we do today. I endorse that sentence. If it is true that what we will have tomorrow depends on what we do today, let us get busy. In the words of the late President Kennedy, "Let us begin".

[Translation]

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I did not want to interrupt the hon. member in his remarks, because I was interested in what he had to say and also out of courtesy, but as soon as he moved his subamendment, I got a copy of it and was surprised to see that there was no French copy.

I assume this is a clerical error or an oversight. I cannot believe it as a deliberate action on the part of the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Douglas).

Anyway, may I ask him whether there are French copies and whether we can have some?

[English]

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I make my apology to the hon. member and to the house. Yesterday I fulfilled an assignment from the Canadian Centennial Commission accepted some weeks ago to address an international convocation on Canada's centenary. I got back very late and had little time to work on the subamendment. I have not yet had the translation completed, but I assure my hon. friend that we will do so as quickly as possible and see that he gets a copy.

• (12:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my first words will be to congratulate the mover of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo (Mr. Jamieson), and the second, the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Côté).

I listened attentively to the mover who, only 18 years ago, was not a Canadian citizen—he was a Newfoundlander—and I greatly appreciated the way he talked about Canada, because 18 years ago he voted against Newfoundland joining Canada. But after 18 years as a citizen of this country, the hon. member tells us with sincerity and enthusiasm about the happiness and satisfaction he now feels about being a Canadian citizen and that he would not change his identity for any other in the world. He is proud to be a Canadian.

The mover of the address in reply belongs to a well-known family whose roots run deep in the province of Quebec. He took pleasure in praising the government. He talked about something which is close to our heart, namely the farm problem, and I will say a word about it later.

Before dealing with that part of his speech on agriculture, Mr. Speaker, I must say how disappointed I am with the speech from the throne. It is a disappointment which I have felt every year now for five years, I would even say for 21 years. As a matter of fact, I was elected member for the riding of Pontiac in 1946, and the speeches from the throne over that long period of 21 years look very much alike.

It contains vague statements and good intentions, but if the road to hell is paved with good intentions, it is to be wondered where we are heading with those senseless words. The measures being promised are only repetitions, as pointed out yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker). For instance, the proposed establishment of the Canada Development Corporation is again included in this speech from the throne. It was mentioned last year, the year before and even three years ago.

All I can find in that speech likely to open the eyes of all Canadians is the following statement:

With our forefathers, the fight was against the immense odds of nature on our half of this continent. Today the main struggle is against social injustice, against cultural mediocrity, against spiritual stagnation and against all forms of intolerance.