

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. ROBERT
CAUCHON AND SECONDED BY
MR. J. A. SIMMONS

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

(Translation):

Mr. Robert Cauchon (Beauharnois): Mr. Speaker, in the history of certain nations on the march, there are moments of truly exceptional grandeur; through the ages there are also fruitful hours during which men witness the building up of solid and enduring institutions.

We are perfectly justified in admitting and recognizing that we are now living such an hour at the opening of this special session of the Canadian House of Commons.

The projects of vital interest which warrant this session make it one of undeniable importance and, consequently, this event will undoubtedly be considered, by our future historians, as one of particular significance.

When legislators entrusted with the administration of the affairs of a nation abide by standards of law and equity, we hasten to note and extol their wisdom in the fulfilment of their duty as statesmen. But, when faced with the serious problems of the hour, these legislators busy themselves with enacting governmental measures inspired by tolerance and humanitarianism, they attract attention from all quarters and, by their beneficial activity, evoke feelings of real admiration in the hearts of the people.

This is the spirit prevailing at the opening of this special session during the course of which the representatives of the Canadian people, conscious of their privileges and responsibilities, will be called upon to discuss and to adopt laws designed to satisfy the immediate needs of our elderly citizens and of our sick people, in order to afford to each and every one of them a fuller measure of happiness and security.

It is not without pride that we see such humanitarian measures taken at the very moment when we are privileged to greet and to acclaim, in our own homeland, Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, who have been pleased to pay us an official visit. Their trip to our country revives our memories of the visit of Their Most Gracious Majesties, the King and Queen of Canada.

It is on such memorable occasions that are vividly demonstrated the proven loyalty of the Canadians, as well as their deep respect

The Address—Mr. Cauchon

for time-honoured traditions, which may aptly be considered as a precious safeguard for our rights and liberties.

On behalf of the members of this house, I want to express to His Majesty the King the wishes of all the Canadian people. May the good Lord hasten his return to health, may He also ensure a long life to our gracious Queen and may He keep them long amongst their respectful subjects.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of my speech, I referred to the sound administration of the government. I praised the virtues of legislators showing signs of wisdom while carrying out the great task of building a nation.

When I spoke of legislators, the figure that first came to everyone's mind was of course that of a statesman whose great personality is universally acknowledged: I mean the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). To that eminent leader, who has always been the untiring champion of national unity in this country and, also, the sincere promoter of international peace, we owe numerous achievements in the various fields of our social and economic activities.

Let us not forget that, because of the skilful work of its leaders, Canada has made giant strides, particularly in the last few years. She has clearly shown that she has reached the status of an adult nation among the great association of free peoples living under the flag of democratic ideal.

By reason of its growth and expansion, this same Canada is destined to play a leading part in the world and to have a voice in matters of concern for the whole of mankind.

But while the international situation reflects the most varied problems, as a drama in hundreds of different acts, it is necessary that every country look actively after the proper administration of its internal affairs.

Thus, within Canada, the Right Hon. the Prime Minister has championed a most vital and urgent cause, that of national unity between the two principal racial groups that make up the population of our ten provinces.

Real obstacles seemed to stand in the way of such union, but they have been smoothed away and practically removed by the skilful and wise directions of our leader.

This duality of races we have in our country is a source of intellectual and moral wealth which should be developed in the general interest.

There are secret and providential laws governing the creation as well as the destiny of great nations. The coexistence of two