

plications. It will be necessary to have those implications carefully examined before an answer is made. I am giving the hon. member the statement at once in case he may wonder why a reply may be delayed.

Mr. ROWE: It is not going to be too soon this time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, September 7, consideration of the motion of Mr. W. M. Benidickson for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, for the first time in six years we are meeting here to-day in the atmosphere of a world at peace. After six years of conflict we find ourselves freed from the attack of enemies who would have deprived our lives of meaning and made of our institutions of government a hollow mockery.

For that deliverance we are indebted to the people of many lands and to the sons and daughters of many homes in Canada—a great multitude to whom history will apportion due praise.

The mention of their contributions takes us back in thought to some of the major incidents of the early days of the war—to Great Britain, for a time standing alone against the might of German arms, "the prisoner of her own historic greatness"; to the embattled republic of China which had carried the fight since 1932; to our great neighbour to the south, technically at peace but marshalling her tremendous strength for the decisive battles ahead; to another great ally—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—bidding her own time to thwart the enemies' attack before joining the forces of freedom; at home a generation of gallant young men, of the navy, the army, and the air force, offering itself a living sacrifice to save our civilization from collapse.

To all these we owe the sincere tribute of a grateful nation. As for our own sons and daughters in uniform, they have put us forever in their debt. They have made us all more proud to call ourselves Canadians.

Nor should we forget the devotion to duty of the workers in the less perilous but equally exacting tasks of the farms, the mines, the factories, the offices and the laboratories. Without them our victory would not have been achieved. To them also is due the thanks of a whole people for tasks faithfully performed.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

The spontaneous rejoicing of the nation was a welcome release from the discipline of war. But beneath the surface of it all, there lies a sombre undertone of seriousness. Men and women are counting the price of victory, measuring the sorrow and personal loss that all too often visited their homes, and laying plans to try to make the new day a better one.

It is in that atmosphere we gather here to-day—to try as best we can to mend the wreckage of the war years; we assemble here to take up the tasks of peace; we come to accept the challenge of a new day.

What is to be the answer of this nation to those in Canada who saved it from catastrophe and to those who will live with them; and to all the others who will follow after? That question brings us to the realities of to-day.

The answer of this house to the men who fought and to the men and women who made the equipment with which to fight, as well as to all others, cannot be made in words and high-sounding phrases or in tablets and monuments of bronze and stone. Comprehensive measures to make possible opportunity, useful jobs, needed production and assured security, particularly for those who return from war, for the wounded, and for the dependents of the fallen, is the only answer this parliament can give to those but for whose sacrifice we would not be here. It is needless to add that the same general objective must be our ambition for all others.

And a second answer we must give if we are to be worthy of these days. We must build an economy in which our people will have faith; a democracy in which we can all have confidence and a programme for Canada in which, on its fundamentals, we can all be united.

On such a basis we can build a new spirit of unity in Canada, a new sense of responsibility for public affairs, and a new vision of positive destiny for the nation.

The ideal state does not fall ready-made from the heavens. We gain it only at a great price.

Upon the members of this house therefore has fallen a great responsibility. It is that of making a worth-while contribution toward a more generally acceptable state at home, and the best possible relationship abroad.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, I look forward with eager anticipation to my work during the coming session of this parliament, not only with those who have sat in this chamber