

Mr. McGrath: Look at the galleries now.

Mr. Herbert: Quite frankly, he says very little. He spoke about this institution. I have heard the remark that the day he retires we will probably save four days each session. Considering the length of the speech he has just made, I am inclined to agree.

An hon. Member: That is an uncalled-for statement.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

● (1510)

Mr. Herbert: The opener in this debate spoke about Quebec Bill 22. I wonder what his qualifications are for talking about Bill 22, particularly when we consider what action should be taken to protect minority rights in other provinces. I found his comments on the constitution rather strange. The nub of the problem, surely, is that it is the desire of the vast majority of Canadians that we settle our own destiny in our own country.

Mr. Speaker, may I offer you my sincere congratulations upon your appointment. May I also extend congratulations to the member from my neighbouring constituency of Beauharnois-Salaberry (Mr. Laniel) upon his appointment as Deputy Speaker, and to the hon. member for Thunder Bay (Mr. Penner), and Louis-Hebert (Mrs. Morin) who will be assisting the Chair. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to convey to the Governor General the hopes of my constituents and myself that he will soon be fully recovered and able to resume his arduous responsibilities.

The mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne deserve our plaudits for their professional maiden speeches in this House. This is an indication of the calibre of the contribution which we can expect from the newly elected members.

The recent election has undoubtedly taken away the weight of uncertainty that characterized the twenty-ninth parliament. Action by government or opposition supporters was influenced by the daily possibility of an ending of that parliament. It is remarkable, and I am sure it will be so recorded, that so much was achieved under those extremely difficult and trying circumstances. I am proud that, though legislation tended to be either popular or relatively short-term, we can look back and say that it was a good job well done.

Now that the strain of minority government is removed, we can include long-term plans. I hope that an early step will be the revision of our rules, to improve our efficiency. It would take more than a supreme optimist to believe that under our existing procedures the more than 60 pieces of legislation which the government wants to present this session can be dealt with through to the stage of royal assent. Yes, there will be moans from the opposition about time to study. They tried that argument in the last session when they had a majority in each standing committee. So many of the opposition did not do their homework in the twenty-ninth parliament. With relatively few new faces on the other side of the House, I am not expecting much improvement in this thirtieth parliament, and that is a pity since I firmly believe that good opposition is essential for good government.

The Address—Mr. Herbert

I am fortunate indeed to be the representative of one of the most interesting constituencies of this country. I sincerely thank the electors who have expressed their trust in me by sending me here for a second term. I hope I can render to all constituents the kind of service that they expect and deserve. The constituency of Vaudreuil is almost equally divided by language groups, French mother tongue citizens being a small majority. The constituency includes a large rural area, where the language used is mostly French. The soil is good and in addition supports many stables, so that the number of horses in the riding is considerable. Farming is mixed, with the emphasis being on dairy herds. The mainly urban area on the island of Montreal is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. The people in this area, who are mainly English-speaking, commute to the big city to work. An improved public transportation system is a major need.

The constituency of Vaudreuil probably includes, in total, as many sporting clubs and establishments as any other in the country. Very few sports are not actively pursued in this region. It is in part because of this local interest that I have been trying, and will continue to try, to persuade the government to form a ministry of sports so there can be much greater federal influence in this area. I believe that the present level of federal financial involvement is totally inadequate.

During the election campaign, the two subjects that were included in three-quarters of the questions posed to me were inflation and the future of agriculture in the province of Quebec. I intend to refer to both of these subjects later in my remarks. Quebec Bill 22 was also raised. Like the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), whose reference to the subject will be found on page 54 of *Hansard*, I think that people in the province of Quebec can well take care of themselves without Bill 22. However, the bill has been passed, and today I wish only to echo the sentiments expressed yesterday by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). His remarks can be found on pages 47 and 48 of *Hansard*. I heartily and enthusiastically endorse his comments on Quebec Bill 22.

A subject raised since the election has been the question of the sharing of police costs, activated by Quebec Justice Minister Choquette by letter to our Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand). As you know, I have taken a strong stand in support of Mr. Choquette—not on his figures, which I am not qualified to judge, but on the principle that financial aid obtained from the federal government to assist in a matter falling under provincial jurisdiction should be available, on a comparable basis, to all provinces.

Furthermore, I contend that the special protection which must be afforded Canada's two largest cities, Montreal and Toronto, is a national responsibility which should fall, in some proportion, on the federal treasury. Some members perhaps are surprised that I, a government supporter, would openly discuss a difference of opinion with a minister. That is one reason I am proud to be a member of the Liberal Party. We represent many differing opinions and we can be said to range all the way from left to right. I must admit that this terminology frightens me a little. If one supports increased pensions, one is left; if one supports a healthy industrial climate, one is labelled right. This is unfortunate, since each of us must use our abilities