

We are happy to see His Honour the Speaker and the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) in their recently assumed places. They have acquitted themselves nobly and have done credit to the Senate. It is therefore somewhat sad to reflect that their tenure of their high offices is bound to be short.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): You can dream, anyway.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: Although my good friend the honourable Leader of the Government says I am dreaming, I point out that I have a pleasant dream, and I am going to report it to this chamber.

I do not know how many honourable senators have read the open letter written by the honourable Leader of the Senate to the *Globe and Mail* and published this morning, but in that letter our esteemed colleague said things that should have been said some time ago because this place has been too much maligned for too long. The points made in that open letter could not have been made more forcefully or more convincingly.

Perhaps, in his absence, I may steal the opportunity to express on behalf of this side, and I am sure on behalf of the Government benches also, a word of tribute to Senator Brooks, our leader, a distinguished parliamentarian and a great Senator.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: I have rather more difficulty in paying unreserved tribute to the Speech from the Throne. It is a vague and general document which appears to be against poverty and in favour of progress. We all share these great objectives—they are part of government—but what does it all mean behind the vague generalizations and pious hopes therein expressed? I have never been much good at chasing will-o'-the-wisps or at swatting flies with a hammer.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Or chasing rainbows!

Hon. Mr. Choquette: We will obviously have to await specific legislative measures as they reach us before passing final judgment on any of them. As of now it is difficult, if not impossible, to anticipate these matters.

In this connection, perhaps I might quote a passage or so from "Capital Report" by Walter Stewart, delivered over the C.B.C. on April 11, 1965:

This week the Liberal Government doffed its old coat and put on a new

one, just in time for spring showings. Last year's Throne Speech was about worn out, anyway; it didn't fit too well, it was ripped and torn, and across the back were several stains that looked suspiciously like dried blood. The new Throne Speech, delivered to a new session last Monday, is a much more satisfactory garment, a bright and swirling cloak of many colours.

It has a number of advantages, not least of which is its large size; it is so big and billowy that the government may take several steps to the right or left within its concealing folds without the rest of us knowing which way it is headed. It has another advantage, too: it is completely reversible. If the government should fall, or go to the country of its own accord, Presto-Chango! the Throne Speech becomes an election manifesto, waterproof enough to withstand campaign storms and lined inside with many pockets, each holding a little something for all of us.

Honourable senators, others will deal with the specifics of the Speech from the Throne, but perhaps I may be allowed some general remarks at this time. We have before us, indeed, a helter-skelter assortment of sugared goodies, many of them resurrected and re-wrapped Easter gifts of several years ago. There is little in it to "excite the daring or to test the strong." In the first place one wonders whether it was not, like the Budget Speech, written by the Eastern Bunny himself. It appears indeed to be redolent of an election: nobody who might be expected to cast a ballot appears to have been entirely neglected.

I cannot really fault the Government for this. It is an old political gimmick, that of buying the people with their own money. All I can do is to expose it for what it is and hope that the people of Canada will not be lulled into any sense of false security.

I say this because, as is often the case, the Speech from the Throne is really more notable for what it does not contain—for its cardinal sins of omission. It skirts the fringes and plays upon the symptoms of the Canadian economy, but it does not meet the problem head on. Where are the measures to stimulate and increase productivity in this country? How will the millions of new jobs which the Economic Council has said will be needed be provided for Canadians? In this area, there is a vast and disturbing silence. I am sure