

of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford) said that further action would be taken in this area, and I look forward to hearing about that action from him particularly because of the need for improved benefits and the availability of lower interest loans to people in my constituency.

Having spoken on all the issues with reference to proposals which I find encouraging in the throne speech, there are a couple of personal interests to which I should like to refer briefly. I was employed as a broadcaster for almost 12 years until I had the privilege of becoming a member of the House last October 30. Over that period of time, although I have not fared badly at the hands of any employer, I have become aware of the fact that, incredibly enough, many people who, for the satisfaction of having their voice heard over the air or to bolster their ego, find themselves working a seven-day week, 16-hour day. Under the federal Labour Code this should not be permitted, but these provisions have not been applied to them as they should. At the appropriate time I will raise that matter.

I also have a real interest in the question of the death penalty and its abolition. I have been an abolitionist for a number of years and have been involved in the work of the Canadian Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. However, I also have a very real respect for the need of our people to feel secure on the streets, safe from harm. For that reason I intend at a later appropriate time, together with my colleague, the hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), to move an amendment to the legislation proposed by the government, which will call for the total abolition of capital punishment but will also call for a 25-year mandatory incarceration—and I am sure rehabilitationists in this House will rail at this—before any consideration is given to parole.

I think that our first priority at this time—after saying it is wrong, immoral and not a deterrent to take life in our society, and thus justify those who take it illegally—is to show our people that we believe in their security and we will remove their fear. However, I hope that in the not too distant future the House will consider statistics from across the world and from our own country and will perhaps be able to argue with the Canadian public and decide amongst ourselves whether that length of time, in fact and in experience when you become fully aware of all the involvements, is an unreasonable period. Rehabilitationists will argue that it is. However, right now we must allay the fears of our people, and I do not believe anybody wants to be party to putting a rope around a person's neck and taking a human life.

We have exciting days ahead and there is a very special responsibility upon us. Perhaps I do not have the right to say this when I am so new in the chamber, but we all are here to represent our constituencies, with full responsibility to do a job for our people and ultimately for Canada. I hope that we do act responsibly.

Finally, I should like to add my congratulations to those of other hon. members, Mr. Speaker, and I hope, as a freshman member in this arena of democracy, that I can learn from your example. My personal actions will not always be as unbiased or perhaps as unemotional, but I hope that I will be able to earn in this House, by my

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behaviour, even a small measure of the respect Your Honour has garnered.

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak as the representative for York-Simcoe I do so with great humility. My riding covers an area that has sent many distinguished representatives to this House. I refer, for example, to the Right Hon. Sir William Mulock, the Hon. Sir Allen Aylesworth, to a man who became a legend in his own time, Herb Lennox. I would also remind those who now choose to form the government that the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King represented a portion of my riding for a brief time in the 1920s, although he had difficulty holding the seat.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: From 1925 until 1963, the more northern portion of the riding which is in Simcoe County was represented by the Hon. W. Earl Rowe, former Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario. To follow in the steps of such gentlemen is indeed a great honour. It is not only a great honour, it is a great challenge.

It has been said that the proper functioning of the House and of any parliamentary system is heavily dependent upon the Speaker of that House. Having read *Hansard* and having witnessed the operation of this chamber in the last week, I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that in my opinion the House has made a wise choice in choosing you once again its Speaker. In selecting the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) as Deputy Speaker, I feel that an equally good choice has been made. I would also like to comment on certain other officials of the House. I refer of course to our able Clerk, Mr. Alistair Fraser, and to his deputy, Mr. Gordon Dubroy, whose facility to remember the names of members of the House is truly phenomenal.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: Both men have been most courteous and helpful to me during these "orientation" days. With such gentleman to guide us and oversee our deliberations, this House will indeed perform smoothly.

I would be remiss if I did not indicate my pleasure at being able to sit in this parliament with so many colleagues from the Progressive Conservative party, in particular our leader, the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Stanfield), to whom we have had the opportunity to listen, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), and the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner). I believe I speak for my colleagues and for virtually the whole House when I say that their addresses were notable and of statesmanlike quality.

May I also add my congratulations to the mover and second of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and to members from all parties who have spoken for the first time in the House during this debate. The quality of their addresses was high and I only hope my remarks will approach theirs in eloquence and substance.

It may be helpful to the House if I described the riding which I have the honour to represent. It is a riding which contains some 100,000 people. It stretches for approxi-