

The Address—Mr. Picard

case some co-operative measures need to be adopted by the provincial and dominion departments of agriculture in order to avoid a drop in livestock production during the remaining months. I should like to impress upon the government as strongly as possible the necessity of getting something done in these very urgent matters.

Mr. L. Philippe Picard (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to start my remarks with the customary gesture of congratulating the mover (Mr. Cauchon) and the seconder (Mr. Simmons) of the address. My remarks are all the more sincere in the case of the first, my friend the hon. member for Beauharnois, because I have come to know him, and since his arrival in this house he has contributed handsomely to our debates and the work of the different committees to which he belongs. I read his speech while I was abroad, because I had *Hansard* sent by air mail daily. This might be the reason which will lead me to conclude in a moment that I think this house ought to assume that we all appreciate the speeches of the movers and seconders of the addresses. We should all assume that the governments, whatever party is in power, will choose good men to introduce and second the motion. Once and for all, we should assume that they are good and we should stop spending fifteen minutes or so complimenting them, although they are deserving of it.

I have calculated that the speakers who have taken part in this debate have spent about three hundred minutes, about five hours, in complimenting the mover and the seconder. I believe we should assume that these gentlemen acquit themselves well of the task which has been entrusted to them, and we might discontinue this practice. As I said a moment ago, it may be that I am influenced by the fact that I had to pay to read these speeches. I asked my office in Quebec to send me *Hansard* every day by air mail. The first and second times I received it, I was a bit discouraged to find that there was about \$1.25 worth of stamps on the envelope. I do not mean that all of us do not make good speeches or do not contribute to the debates in an eloquent way, but frankly I wondered whether I had received my money's worth. In the meantime I must say, before anybody else attempts to do it, that I do not believe today's *Hansard* will be any better because I took part in the debate or that it will be any more worth the \$1.25 in stamps that was on the ones I received while abroad. But I say frankly that I think we would save probably five or six hours or more in our debates

if we did away with the practice of congratulating the mover and the seconder of the address. In this case I must state that I was really pleased to see the way the new hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Cauchon) behaved. I followed his activities in this house, and I thought his speech was good and up to expectations. The same remark applies to the hon. member for Yukon-Mackenzie River (Mr. Simmons), whom I have not the pleasure of knowing so well, but whose speech also was good.

I do not intend to follow the example of the two previous speakers who dealt mainly with the subamendment. I propose to touch on a few of the items that are mentioned in the speech from the throne, particularly on those referred to by most hon. members since this debate started. One of the most important is of course the high cost of living. That is one of the most serious problems of the day, and it is a world problem. World economists have been at a loss to find a remedy not only in Canada but throughout the world. During the course of my visit abroad, particularly in England, in France and in Germany, I met some gentlemen who were supposed to be acquainted with the problem. Some of them were professors of political economy and of social economy. They see with great anxiety the trend of rising prices throughout the world, especially on the continent. As one of them was pointing out to me, before the war there used to be set rules governing the rising cost of living. We all used to attribute it to inflation. Inflation was described as being caused by a great supply of currency or buying power in the hands of the people and a scarcity of goods, mostly consumer goods. Often it was attributed to laxity in the rules or regulations concerning credit, speculation on a large scale, and so on.

At this time throughout most countries of the world, except possibly in Greece where there was real inflation in the way of too much currency being put on the market, generally it cannot be said—and this is true especially as to Canada—that the government has issued too much currency or has financed its works program through the issuance of new currency. In fact during the war many of us complained that the income taxes were stiff and high because the government had acted wisely in arranging to have at least 50 per cent of the cost of war paid on a day to day basis and the other 50 per cent financed by loans or as an accumulation of debt. While not contesting the wisdom of this policy, some of us complained bitterly when we had to face the period of the year in which we had to pay those taxes. Yet