

*The Address—Mr. Haidasz*

country. Surely no one in the other opposition parties want that to happen. I therefore urge the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and his followers to be very careful of whatever the Leader of the Opposition attempts to do in this parliament. Otherwise they might help him to precipitate another election, which I am sure the people of Canada do not want.

I am grateful to the fine people of Parkdale who have sent me again to represent them in the House of Commons. I consider it a great privilege to serve them, above all, in the federal field, and I believe that even though I have accepted the additional duties of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Laing), I will be able to assist them in all or most of their problems. It is my belief that I can assist them by co-operating with the government and by giving my support to its impressive program as announced in the Speech from the Throne.

The bold and progressive measures forecast in the Speech from the Throne, when passed by parliament, will no doubt directly or indirectly benefit Canadians in all sections of this vast country and in every strata of our society.

The proposals we have heard in the Speech from the Throne will also help my constituents in Parkdale who form a representative cross-section of a typical cosmopolitan Canadian metropolis. In addition to the Canadian citizens of Anglo-Saxon extraction, virtually all the ethnic groups of the old world are represented in Parkdale, including French, Polish, Ukrainian, German, Hungarian, Italian, Slovak, Lithuanian, Latvian, Croatian, Slovenian, Chinese, Japanese and other groups.

Many of these constituents of mine are recent immigrants. These new Canadians are acquainted with the official languages—one or the other—as well as the history and political system of Canada through the media of the ethnic weekly press, and the services of the education field. These people are making a great contribution as a result of their training, industriousness, and cultural background to Canada's development and they are eager to participate in its forward movement toward a great future. They cherish above all the freedom and unlimited opportunities which this young country offers to all who are willing to work for self-improvement. Having found freedom and opportunity they have a firm determination to preserve it. Consequently

they have understandable concern about people in other lands who do not share these blessings or who have lost them.

In that context I should like to refer to part of the text of the speech delivered in September, 1965, by our Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), to the 20th General Assembly of the United Nations. In part he said:

We cannot, however, concentrate only on material progress as if this were the only key to human welfare. The dignity and the unique value of the human spirit are even more fundamental and can flourish only under conditions of equality and freedom.

The determination we therefore express in the Charter "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights" is a vital part of the total crusade in which we are engaged. Canadians attach particular importance to the maintenance and extension of individual rights, to the protection of the institutions of family and faith, and to removal of all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, sex or religion.

Our concern for human rights arises also from our diverse national origins. Many Canadians still retain a profound interest in the lives of their kinsmen in other lands. Where respect for human rights, freedom and self-determination is not fully assured or where it is deliberately denied, Canadians deplore these conditions—believing as we do that those rights and freedoms must be of universal application.

Because of these convictions we are particularly concerned that the role of the UN in the human rights fields should be enhanced and that the recent proposals to this effect should be pursued. We support the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights as proposed by Costa Rica and will join in co-sponsoring any resolution to this effect. Human rights are of universal significance; their violation must be of universal concern.

In this context, Mr. Speaker, I should like to add that it is my fervent wish that Canada play a leading role in the forthcoming conference on human rights to be held in 1968. If it is possible, I should like to see that conference held in Canada, perhaps even at the site of Expo '67. I believe we could set a great example to the world by showing how Canadians cherish the fundamental principles of human rights.

At this time, I should like to pay special tribute to Canadians of Polish descent who have already commenced this year to solemnly commemorate the one thousandth anniversary or millennium of the Christianization of Poland, the land of their forefathers. Possessing the rich heritage of a culture one thousand years old, they will celebrate the historic day in the year 966 when the Polish ruler, Mieszko I, embraced the Christian faith. From that moment in world history, Poland was launched into the orbit of western civilization and democracy.