

The Address—Mr. Coldwell

to the proper discussion of the various matters that will have to be dealt with in this parliament. I express the hope that we may hear them frequently and also hear other new members—I am anxious to hear other new members, and not least anxious to hear the new members of the opposite sex—assist us with their words of wisdom in shaping proper policies for this young and developing nation which, even when it does bow to socialism, does so with a silk hat.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to join with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) in congratulating the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and his followers on the results they achieved in the last election. It is true that most of us hoped that the results might have been somewhat different. However, the Canadian people decided otherwise and we accept their verdict. I only hope that this newly elected parliament may produce results that will be beneficial to all the people of our country, and which indeed will enable Canada to make even a greater contribution to the peace and welfare of mankind than Canada has been able to make in the days gone by.

I am also glad that I was here when the President of the United States visited Canada and spoke to the members of both houses of parliament. I was greatly interested in what he said. In some respects, of course, he gave us great encouragement; but sometimes I wondered whether some of the encouragement he gave us, particularly in the realm of trade and commerce, was not subsequently qualified in a manner which rather discounted the hope we might otherwise have had for future trade relationships between his great country and our own.

I want to congratulate the mover (Mr. Hollingworth) and the seconder (Mr. Villeneuve) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, and may I add that I am going to do so on behalf of all members associated with me. It seems to me that the formal custom of everybody rising and congratulating the mover and seconder is quite an unnecessary procedure and I propose today, with the consent of my friends, most heartily to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address on behalf of all of us.

I am also very happy to see more lady members in the house. I only wish that we had several lady members with us. I recollect, of course, that the pioneer woman member in the house sat with us. She was Agnes Macphail who served the people of Canada so well and who, I think, has deserved better at the hands of Canada than she has received.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

I have no doubt she will be long remembered as one of the great exponents of penitentiary reform. The reforms that have been put into effect over the past few years were very largely promoted in the house over a period of some twenty years by Agnes Macphail who was during that time the member for Grey South East and Grey-Bruce.

I also want to join with others in expressing our pleasure at the coronation of Her Majesty, and particularly the service that was rendered to the Canadian people and indeed to the people of North America, including the United States, by the wonderfully efficient manner in which the R.C.A.F., the B.B.C., Trans-Canada Air Lines and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation co-operated in bringing to this country so expeditiously the very remarkable and beautiful films of the ceremony in Westminster Abbey. At four o'clock in the afternoon of coronation day, seated comfortably in chairs around television sets in this part of Canada and across the United States, people were able to witness that moving and beautiful religious ceremony, the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen; and I wish to say how much many whom I know appreciated the service performed at that time.

I do not propose to enter into a long discussion of the merits of competition and the merits of control of monopolies except to say that I thoroughly agree with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) when he says there are certain phases of our economic life, particularly those that require a franchise such as transportation, that are suitable for public control, development and operation. As I listened to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) this afternoon I could not help thinking of the thundering voice of the late R. B. Bennett speaking from approximately the same seat in the house when he said with respect to the ownership and control of Canadian radio: Who is there among us who does not regret that the government of Canada of that day did not take a different position with regard to the beginning of railway construction in this country?

I remember that when the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) introduced into the house the first statute dealing with Trans-Canada Air Lines there was complete unanimity regarding the desirability of this great new transportation facility being publicly owned, directed and controlled by the government and the people of Canada through an appropriate public board. I remember something else. It is only two years ago that, in order to restrict the monopolistic tendencies of private business in Canada, the