

The Address—Mr. Hanna

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. R. F. L. HANNA  
AND SECONDED BY MR. H. J. ROBICHAUD

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

**Mr. R. F. L. Hanna (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, on this memorable occasion of my life I would first of all like to thank the right hon. Prime Minister for the great honour he has bestowed upon me by inviting me to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne here this afternoon. I have no doubt, however, that the Prime Minister desired especially to honour the residents of Edmonton-Strathcona whom I have the privilege of representing in this House of Commons. On their behalf I assure him that we are most grateful for the recognition that he has bestowed on what we believe to be one of the finest communities in all of Canada. It is my hope that on this occasion I may be able to do justice to them as their representative in parliament.

As we have barely crossed the threshold of 1957, Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to wish you, sir, and through you, all hon. members of this House of Commons a happy, healthful and prosperous new year.

I do regret, Mr. Speaker, as I am sure do all hon. members, the circumstances which have compelled the Hon. George Drew to resign his seat in this House of Commons. He will be very much missed by everybody here. Mr. Drew has performed outstanding services to his country in many ways, and I am sure we all wish for him a speedy recovery to his normal good health and vigour. In that connection, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) on his election as leader of the Progressive Conservative party of Canada. He, too, has had a distinguished career both at the bar and here in parliament. He is now leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, and I know that he will appreciate my sincerity as a supporter of this government when I wish him many happy years in the high office which he now holds in parliament. I was impressed this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, by the good counsel that he received from other members of this chamber that he should not work too hard to overthrow the present government.

It is a good thing for Canada, I believe, that on an occasion like this the government can select a government backbencher from any one of the 10 provinces or the northern territories to move the address in reply to

Now, sir, all I will say further at this time is to repeat my thanks and to reaffirm my desire to maintain, as the Prime Minister so eloquently said, the traditions and the customs of parliament, to expedite the public business and at all times—and I say this with humility—determine to do nothing that will detract from the dignity and prestige of this institution, our parliament. Six hundred years of experience has revealed that if parliament is maintained in all its greatness, and if the functions of free debate are not interfered with, freedom will never be destroyed or even impaired.

I believe that this institution is one which, when it discharges its responsibilities in accordance with our traditions, will preserve our freedom from within as from without. I thank the Prime Minister and my hon. friends for being so kind as to suggest that I may, in a humble way, discharge the responsibilities of this office.

### INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister)** presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Hon. James J. McCann, Minister of National Revenue, the Hon. S. S. Garson, Minister of Justice, the Hon. Hugues Lapointe, Minister of Veterans Affairs, and the Hon. W. E. Harris, Minister of Finance, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the 143rd chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, intituled: An act respecting the House of Commons.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister)** moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house under standing order 65, the said committee to be composed of Messrs. Harris, Knowles, Lapointe, Tustin and Weir.

Motion agreed to.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF  
COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister)** moved:

That Edward T. Applewhaite, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Skeena, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house.

Motion agreed to.