

*Speech from the Throne*

now hold, an office which you, in turn, will I know make even more distinguished. I should also like to congratulate the other new officers of the house, the chairman of committees who is also deputy speaker, and the deputy chairman of committees on their appointments.

Further, and I hope again on behalf of everyone, I must not forget to say a word of good wishes to the leader of the Social Credit party who, I believe, is celebrating his birthday today.

To the new cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries, and especially to the new Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Pearson), may I offer my warmest, most sincere congratulations.

Finally, to all hon. members of the house who like me are new to it, may I assure them that I will be rooting for them when they, too, go into orbit.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the Prime Minister for the honour he has done the constituency of Northumberland in asking me, its representative, to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Of course, if I may say so, Northumberland is entirely worthy of this honour. In fact I have felt that it was in a class by itself ever since I first visited it as a small child many summers ago; and now that I am one of its residents, indeed since April 8 of this year its representative, I am even more acutely aware of its many virtues.

For one thing, Mr. Speaker, Northumberland has as great natural beauty as I think you will find anywhere in Canada—lovely lakes, hills, streams and woods—and I assure you it has a thoroughly delightful climate at all seasons of the year. My only wonder is that half the population of Canada has not taken up residence there. Then too, where man has added, he has added well—in the usual transportation facilities, harbours, highways, railways and waterways. In excellent farms of great variety producing dairy cattle, beef, pigs, sheep, tobacco and fruits, particularly apples, and vegetables. In attractive villages and towns with many delightful and historic buildings and great diversity of industry ranging from furniture, plastics and jello manufacturing, cloth, leather goods and rifle production, to cheese factories, canneries and many more.

Above all its people, its main asset, I have always found to be warm and friendly, intelligent and co-operative, and I have found this even when I lost last year as much as when I was successful in this year's election campaign.

As I have said, the only thing that leaves me with any wonder is that many, many others do not join us there. Perhaps one of

the main reasons they do not, and indeed why the population has not increased very rapidly latterly is because there is quite a degree of distress in the constituency. In this, of course, it is not unique. It is like many other parts of Canada. There is a great deal of unemployment and the people who are out of work are out of work not necessarily because of seasonal factors but rather because there is basic, or what we call nowadays, structural unemployment, and they cannot get work at any time of the year. Even those who are employed one finds frequently are living at or close to the margin of subsistence.

Industry has not been developing very rapidly. Indeed in my own county some industries, particularly in canning, have been closed down. Harbours have not been developed very speedily and farmers somehow have not yet been able to be assured of prices that will always enable them to cover their continually increasing costs. These are things we know exist in Northumberland and everywhere in Canada today.

People talk about the affluent society we have. It is quite possible there are a few members of our society who are genuinely affluent; but with very large numbers, I should think close to a third, this is certainly not the case. Many of them live in conditions that should not be tolerated by any decent, thoughtful society, nor is this necessarily the fault of the individuals concerned.

We still hear people talking about the good old days of self reliant individualism when all an individual had to do was to get up and go. It is always very pleasant to wish we could return to those days; but the fact of the matter is, and we could see this if sometimes we were not blind, that we have moved from an individualist society to a collectivist society, a society where it is very difficult for a great many of us to make the decisions that affect our own destinies. These decisions are increasingly taken by others on our behalf, particularly by large organizations which exist throughout our whole economy. These decisions are simply beyond our control. When we are unemployed or in distress it is extremely difficult for us nowadays to do a very great deal about it ourselves on our own initiative.

This brings me, Mr. Speaker, to the main burden of my remarks, namely, a discussion of the philosophy, the leadership, the program and policies of the party that now forms the government of this country. It seems to me that the Liberal party, more than any other party in Canada, is aware of the kinds of change in our society that I have been discussing. Indeed, there is a sentence in the third paragraph of the speech from the throne which reads, "Familiar ways of thought and