

than two years, and therefore the trials and tribulations to which you have been subjected today will not be extended over too long a period, during which I shall not be able to do too much harm.

[Translation]

**Hon. Raymond Eudes:** Honourable senators, while delivering my first speech in this house, I am pleased to congratulate our Speaker, the honourable Senator Jean-Paul Deschatelets. His experience as a member and a minister, as well as that acquired as assistant to the leader of this house, his personal qualities, his judgment, his integrity and his dignity make him worthy of this high office. I pray you, Mr. Speaker, to accept my congratulations and my best wishes.

Honourable senators, allow me also to offer my good wishes and congratulations to the Leader of the Senate, the Honourable Paul Martin. His parliamentary experience of more than thirty-three years, the great number of duties which he so brilliantly exercised in this Parliament, his great intelligence and his comprehensive knowledge make him highly qualified to hold this high position.

It is a pleasure for me also, honourable senators, to extend my congratulations to the mover of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Through its clear and lucid thinking, the speech of the honourable senator Phillips (Rigaud) is a contribution of great value to the debate which opens this 28th Parliament.

More than twenty-five years of parliamentary life in the other house have enabled me to judge and appreciate the quality and usefulness, in our democratic system, of the work done by the Senate, without fanfare, but with an efficiency stamped with experience and wisdom.

Those qualities are precisely those which have characterized the fifty years of parliamentary life of my predecessor, the honourable Thomas Vien, and which still sustain his unflagging activity, his youthful spirit, his strong intellect, his open mind with regard to new ideas. I wish to express to him my deep gratitude.

My gratitude extends also to the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson.

To govern a country founded by two ethnic groups, peopled by races with various cultures, made up of ten provinces with unequal resources and where economic disparity can be found; to strengthen a shaky unity; to

increase productivity while avoiding the hazards of inflation; to put a country with 20 million inhabitants among the first in the world, those are some of the hard tasks successfully completed by Mr. Pearson.

He is well known for his simplicity, his unselfishness, his sincerity. He is sought for his competence. His reputation extends throughout the world.

History will refer to this man who gave Canada its flag, its national anthem, as a very great Canadian and as one of the most eminent prime ministers of his country. I express my admiration for him.

The speech of His Excellency the Governor General plunged all Canadians into the full reality of the political, economic, and social situation. The time for dreams is past. That of positive and total action follows. Each and everyone of us, the ordinary citizens, as well as the legislators and leaders, we are forced to find ourselves, individually and collectively, to realize, in all its human possibility, the just society.

The just society is undeniably sought by everyone. It is around that theme, that with the deepest conviction, lucidity, and relentless logic, determination devoid of hesitation or weakness, the prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau built the last electoral campaign. Thus, and at long last, Canada gave itself a majority government.

A just society must give everyone the greatest possible measure of freedom, happiness, material well-being in a world at peace.

A glance at the world convinces us that Canada is a privileged country.

Look at our neighbours: racial segregation; and elsewhere, famine, war, violations of individual and national freedoms.

Here, we have an affluent society: huge and varied natural resources, enviable prosperity, a high standard of living, a social security system in full development, an increasingly higher degree of education amongst its people, an atmosphere of freedom, the possibility for individuals to participate in a government "of the people, by the people, for the people".

Still, we have problems. The recent report of the Economic Council of Canada ruthlessly brings it home to us. But, alas, as usual, it is easier to define the illness than to find the cure.