

On the next page, I read:

Old age assistance increased to \$75 a month. Old age assistance of \$75 to widows and single women at 60 years of age. Allowance of \$75 a month to blind and disabled persons.

Everybody knows that these measures have already been passed and that, by April next, all these persons will be in receipt of the promised increase.

On page 17, I read that a federal labour code will be proposed; that it will apply to industries coming under federal jurisdiction as well as works undertaken by virtue of federal contracts. A minimum wage, a maximum work week of 40 hours, two weeks of holiday with pay and seven statutory holidays will be put into effect.

That was, almost verbatim, the wording of the Speech from the Throne.

I skip some of it and I come to page 21 from which I quote:

Extension of the fishing zone to twelve miles from the coast.

Other items of the Liberal program are also included in the Speech from the Throne, for instance, Canada's defence policy, that is one that will enable us to fulfil our commitments to our allies and the securing of defence nuclear arms, as well as the establishment of a parliamentary committee on defence.

Those are numerous items which are already in effect. Moreover, this year the Speech from the Throne points out that the parliamentary committee on defence will be reconvened.

In short, honourable senators, a very large part of this program will be carried out before the end of the present session. Indeed, that program was to be implemented over the full duration of a Parliament.

I will not mention the other important measures contained in the Speech from the Throne and which we will study as they are presented to us.

Honourable senators, I did not refer to that program as a member of the Liberal party but only to point out that any political party which makes workable commitments and carries them out will always have the confidence of the electorate in Canada and will thus contribute to the maintenance of a sound democracy.

As long as those who hold the reins of power take such an attitude we have nothing to fear from extremists or utopic movements

which, for the most part, base their action on opportunism or demagoguery and which play on the most sacred feelings of the various groups which make up a country. That being the case, they will never gain the support of the majority in Canada, because our people are moderate and sound-minded.

The results of the last by-election in the ridings of St. Denis and Laurier bear witness to that fact; the separatist party and the Caouette group combined did not even get the support of 7 per cent of registered voters.

I speak of votes cast for both the separatists and the Caouette group because the former did not enter any candidate in the race and the latter stated during the campaign that they would become separatists.

Therefore, that 7 per cent of the vote represents both the Caouettistes and the separatists.

St. Denis and Laurier proved to the rest of the country that Quebec is and always will be part of Canada. Quebec believes that the constitutional adjustments which are essential to a co-operative federalism can only be brought about by men without prejudice, serious and responsible men, and not by a bunch of radicals, be they of English or French origin.

Honourable senators, unfortunately, certain newspapers give a big spread as well as their headlines to those movements. In that way, they propagate and create resentments and rancour by giving to those movements an importance they do not have. I have just proved it.

Unfortunately also, certain influential persons, through their ambiguous attitudes and statements, condone or encourage those extreme ideologies.

Honourable senators, the Prime Minister of Canada has just made another appeal to reason, level-headedness and understanding for a united and prosperous Canada. May he find in every province of our country many Canadians who will respond to that appeal and thus contribute to maintain national unity within Canada.

(Text):

Honourable senators, I have the honour to second the motion of my colleague, honourable Senator Cook, for an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I ask for your approval.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Brooks, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.