

*Speech from the Throne***SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Friday, February 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Ross Whicher for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Stanfield (p. 34), and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Lewis (p. 45).

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I feel I should extend my congratulations first of all to the people of the constituencies of Bruce and Trois-Rivières for electing two outstanding members to the House of Commons. They can be proud of their members' performance in moving and seconding the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I hope I may be pardoned in that, notwithstanding the fine tribute paid to them by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), I should like to extend my own personal congratulations to them.

The hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher) in a masterful way covered the extent of this government's achievements which the opposition for political reasons of their own have chosen to ignore. Because of their informative nature the hon. member's remarks deserve the widest possible distribution. He pointed out indisputable facts, some of which have not been grasped by many Canadians, concerning the basis of the government's performance led by a Prime Minister who has never hesitated to break new ground when the interests of the Canadian people are at stake. Whenever the election is called the voters of this country, I am confident, will overwhelmingly endorse this program.

With regard to the other issues contained in the Throne Speech we could have guessed what members of the opposition would say even before the speech was read by the Governor General. In the Throne Speech debates to which I have listened throughout the years that I have been a member I have not yet heard a member of the opposition praise the contents of the Throne Speech, and so far as this one is concerned it was no exception.

The gloom and doom tune of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) seems to have set the pace for his followers, with promises of a full employment budget, whatever that might be, while the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) advocated a new social and economic system, which reminds me of Lenin when he took control of Russia and made the famous statement "we will now proceed to establish a new social order". I think we are fortunate to have a government in Canada today dedicated to the equalization of opportunities in every area of Canada, one which has been eminently successful in lifting the low wage earners, the poor, the disabled, the war veterans and the retired to a higher state or dignity.

• (1250)

In this kind of debate it is customary to touch upon a few questions which may affect one's constituency or something of national interest. I wish to bring to the attention of hon. members the Committee for an

[Mr. Speaker.]

Independent Canada which held its first meeting in my constituency over the weekend of December 10.

I was astonished to read a report from that meeting during which a prominent member of the body made a statement to the effect that if it had not been for the late Right Honourable C. D. Howe there would have been no occasion for the committee to come into being and that Mr. Howe's policy was to encourage as many Americans as possible to come to Canada and that his whole philosophy was continentalism. If the man who made that incredible statement had reflected a little on the contributions made to the nation, toward the industrial development of Canada and the tremendous job of launching Canada's war effort and the colossal work of its reconstruction after the war by the late Right Honourable C. D. Howe, such a statement would never have been made. Indeed, I consider it an insult to the intelligence of the Canadian people and unworthy of the person who made it.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, and especially for the benefit of the younger generation which is too young to have known Canada's greatest architect of the postwar reconstruction of the nation, I wish to point out that when the Right Honourable C. D. Howe launched Canada's production toward the war effort, the output of Canadian industry in 1938 was \$3.3 billion and the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry totalled 642,000. In 1957 industrial production under the wise guidance of the late Mr. C. D. Howe had reached ten times that amount and the number of Canadians employed in the manufacturing industry had risen 1,300,000.

Mr. Speaker, the outstanding achievement of Mr. Howe was the whole program of munitions supply which he conceived and directed during the war years. Whereas we went into the war with a fairly simple economy from an industrial standpoint, we emerged from the war with a highly diversified industrial machine.

Steel production is an outstanding case in point. Prior to the war we imported at least one-third of our requirements and at the end of the war we had a strong and fully integrated steel industry. I recall listening to the Fort William City Council of which I was a member. It was gravely concerned about how the new industrial capacity created in wartime could be kept busy, especially since we had a war industry in the city employing 6,000 persons. Where would they find a job in our community once war requirements were at an end? Mr. Howe immediately came to our rescue with a program for peacetime manufacturing including a flourishing trolley bus business. These were sold throughout Canada. A white paper on reconstruction which he submitted to parliament early in the postwar period contained a monetary and fiscal policy which made the transition from war to peace in such a manner as to win the admiration of other western nations that came out of the war.

The steel industry is an example of the wisdom of this postwar period. The industry continued to expand and prosper and I think it is generally regarded as the most efficient steel industry on the North American continent. Mr. C. D. Howe's critics usually concentrate their fire on what they claim to be his sellout of Canadian resources. More specifically they charge that he was responsible for the fact that we have such a large percentage of foreign ownership in the resource industries. Here I should like to