

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

notice that he thanked in advance some of us who did not have the opportunity previously to accord our congratulations. I am very happy to do so, and I hope he may long be spared, if not as Prime Minister, to enjoy a well deserved further span of years.

I should also like to say to the mover (Mr. McMillan) and the seconder (Mr. Breton) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne that those of us who have been here a good many years can appreciate the difficulties under which they laboured yesterday. For two members coming into the house for the first time and rising in their places to make major speeches, I think they acquitted themselves exceptionally well. On behalf of myself and my colleagues I have great pleasure in congratulating them upon the excellent showing they made yesterday, and I hope they will often participate in the debates of the house.

The speech from the throne contains a great deal of material for thought, and fore-shadows, I should think, a very important and interesting session of parliament. As we would expect it to do, it records a deterioration in the international situation. Unlike the leader of the opposition, I am going to devote some attention to the international situation largely because the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) is going to speak tomorrow and I should like to place certain criticisms before him this afternoon. I am going to take this opportunity to express approval of the decision made last summer to invite opposition members to attend sessions of the general assembly. I think that is good for the members who go there. I think it is good for our respective parties in the house. Indeed I think it is good for the country generally. It gives to members of the house, through their party representatives who attend these conferences, a more intimate knowledge of the developments and important events that take place there and the policies that Canada follows at such conferences.

Indeed it does something else. It enables parliament and the country to achieve a considerable approach to unanimity regarding grave issues which may affect not only our own people but millions of other people all over the world. Of course there may arise differences in methods of achievement, differences in the immediate objectives; but I think I can say that, in spite of any differences that we may express or that I may express this afternoon, there is no difference in the determination of each and every one of us in the house to protect and preserve our people and our country from the present menace of totalitarianism. About that

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determination there must of necessity be unanimity. As I have already said, that unanimity should be obvious not only in this house but all over the country.

To get such unanimity something is required, and that is a knowledge of the events that are taking place and an understanding of what they involve. Here I think members of parliament, the government and all agencies of public information in this country and everywhere else have particular responsibilities. I do not think that members of parliament, either individually or collectively, or the government either, have given enough attention to informing public opinion in this country sufficiently of the events that are taking place, and of what we should be doing to meet the threats that are now so apparent in world affairs.

What is true of individual members of the house, or of members collectively and the government, I think is equally true of our public information agencies. In my opinion the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation did a first-class job in reporting all the major discussions at the United Nations. Their rebroadcasts of important speeches by our Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) and leading members of other delegations at the United Nations, the United Nations documentaries that we heard from the assembly from time to time, and so on, I think were exceptionally useful. If I may say so I think the commentaries by various commentators, by Mr. Peter Stursberg of the C.B.C., by Mr. Walter O'Hearn of the *Montreal Star* and others, were exceedingly valuable in helping the people of Canada understand some of the matters being discussed before the committees of the United Nations, and particularly before the first or political committee.

I regret that the news-gathering agencies of the Canadian newspapers generally were not adequately represented at the United Nations. From my observations the great co-operative news-gathering agency of the daily newspapers of Canada, the Canadian Press, had no representative there, at least for any length of time. The commercial organization, British United Press, as far as I know had no representative there. The result was that but for the agencies I have already mentioned, particularly the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the people of Canada had to rely almost entirely upon the commentaries and commentators and columnists who write from day to day in United States newspapers, many of whose articles are syndicated in some of our large Canadian newspapers. There were, of course, one or two notable exceptions as far as the daily newspapers were concerned. A moment