

*The Address—Mr. Slogan*

drew to the attention of the house today the fact that this is the fortieth anniversary of the declaration of independence by the Ukraine. As you know, sir, my forebears came from that country and it is indeed fitting that I should make my debut in the house on this day.

I am here only as the medium through which the people of Springfield expressed their confidence in our great leader, the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and in the policies which this government has implemented, especially the agricultural policies. Therefore, I should like to express my gratitude to the people of Springfield for placing their trust in this government. Those people of all nationalities, religions, political affiliations and stations in life now place their faith in me to present their cause in this house and to offer leadership on their behalf. My only hope is that both in and out of this house I may justify that trust and earn that respect that is accorded to all members of parliament who dedicate themselves humbly and sincerely to the service of the principles of democracy.

In those principles we have a rich heritage. It took men of vision, courage and conviction to crystallize that heritage; it took statesmanship, diplomacy, and years of struggle. By that struggle our fathers of confederation conceived a new nation, uniting two languages and two creeds, and dedicated to the principles of unity, equality, opportunity and freedom. Today the familiar words of those men and of those who passed before them and their deeds are seldom heard and even less appreciated.

Springfield is a relatively new constituency, Mr. Speaker, having been created in 1914 and altered in 1924. It boasted only one Conservative representative in its history, Tom Hay, who was first elected in 1925, until our late member, Val Yacula, won it in 1958. Mr. Yacula was a quiet man who did a good job. In his memory I wish merely to quote a few words by Lord Baldwin:

A few years, and the voices of those addressing the house today will be silent, too. A few more years and their voices will be forgotten. But the character and the spirit remain to fortify the coming generations and to illuminate their paths.

I am proud to represent Springfield, because Springfield is a large, diversified and cosmopolitan constituency. Our people range from native Indians and metis, to the descendants of the Selkirk settlers. But the

majority are the colourful people of European descent who colonized the area at the turn of the century. I say "colonized" deliberately, because still today we have villages that are distinctly Ukrainian, Polish, French and German and others. Today, as time marches on and new generations are conceived, there is emerging by interaction and intermarriage that brand of distinct Canadianism, tolerant and stable of character, of which we are all so proud, each with a different and distinct background, each with a common dedication of loyalty and devotion to this country.

As I pass among the pioneers of Springfield, I see that time takes its toll. I see less and less of those gnarled hands, those deeply etched faces, those stooped backs of those hardy people, often illiterate, who were dumped off the C.P.R. at East Selkirk in their sheepskin coats, with nothing but their love of the land and enthusiasm for hard work. They did not think of themselves; they thought of the future. They were not ambitious for themselves but for the future generations. They carved a civilization out of the wilderness. But, more important still, they carved their brand, that sterling character of pioneering Canadianism that was instilled in their children and has carried them to respected positions of leadership on the broad frontiers of the world today. That inherent quality is emerging from an amorphous mass and crystallizing into a distinct Canadianism. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that those pious pioneers will find in their afterlife the peace and rewards that were never theirs on earth.

Springfield stretches from the metropolis of Winnipeg to the barren and inaccessible expanse of the pre-Cambrian shield in the north. In the bosom of these rocks lies the great wealth of gold, chrome, beryllium, nickel and other metals. We in Springfield share the vision of the north. We have placed our faith in men like our Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Hamilton), a hard-working minister whose efforts are often unrecognized and even less appreciated. At Bissett we have a thriving gold-mining community. In those northern areas there are also many trappers. Along lake Winnipeg we have a large commercial fishing industry which is being faced with grave and trying times by conditions in the lake and problems of marketing. I am

[Mr. Slogan.]