

The Address—Mr. Noseworthy

that it intends to continue its sound policy toward the solution of as many social difficulties as possible at this time, and on that ground alone it certainly deserves the recognition of the whole country.

Mr. J. W. NOSEWORTHY (York South): This is the first opportunity I have had to participate in a debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. When I first came to this house the debate on the address in reply had just concluded, and the vote was about to be taken.

I have been wondering for some days what good purpose is being served by this—usually lengthy—debate. I take it for granted that every hon. member can foretell now with a reasonable degree of accuracy what the vote will be, and none of us is so optimistic as to believe that by his speech in this debate he will be able to change a single vote. I suggest that the leaders in this house agree among themselves to limit this debate, so that we may as soon as possible get on with the much more serious business of this session, some items of which I shall attempt to outline.

I have been very much impressed during this debate by the fact that this Cooperative Commonwealth Federation group has received more free advertising from both old parties this session than, I think, we received during the six months I was here last session. I begin to look around for a reason for that free advertising, and I recall that members of his majesty's loyal opposition took a certain little old lady to Winnipeg last summer. That little old lady had on several earlier occasions divorced her former spouses. She had been known by many names. At Winnipeg she divorced her most recent spouse, had a really good face-lifting job done, was outfitted in a new suit of glamorous clothes, and remarried to a new spouse, which meant of course that she must take his name. She was even given a book of etiquette to guide her in the future. With that she sallied forth for new conquests. Inasmuch as the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation was in a large measure responsible for that episode in the little old lady's life, I presume the criticism we have been receiving is the way the Progressive Conservatives have of showing their appreciation of our work.

I have also been amazed at the indignation displayed by this newly named party because the government has promised to implement by legislation some of the resolutions contained in their Winnipeg programme. I take it that, had that programme been drawn up in the interests of the Canadian people, there would be rejoicing, instead of indignation and

[Mr. Cote.]

consternation, over the fact that the government had done so. I want to assure the members of that group that there was no indignation felt in the ranks of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation last summer when they proceeded to build an entire programme from a few planks taken from our platform and tied together with a great many reservations. It makes one question just what were the objectives of that new party programme, and I suspect that this letter, which, when I returned over the week end, I found being circulated in my riding, expresses more clearly than I can just what the objective of that conference and that new programme was. This is a circular letter. The recipient of it is asked to return it with one dollar attached—

. . . and your membership in the South York Progressive Conservative Association will be paid for one year. You will thereby assist us and yourself to defeat the C.C.F. . . .

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): That is not as bad as the C.C.F. franking their appeals for money.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I have also been amazed, Mr. Speaker, at the resentment felt in the ranks of the Progressive Conservatives on account of the disappearance of the small business man, the small vendor, the small manufacturer. This is no new phenomenon in Canadian life. The small business man in every field has been going under over a period of many years, under the government of both Liberals and Conservatives. Monopolistic and capitalistic enterprise have been slowly but surely squeezing out of existence the small man in every enterprise. The only new feature in the present situation is that those enterprises, which formerly were carrying out this squeezing process by themselves, now have lent their key men to the government, and from those inside positions they are able to accelerate the process which has been going on for a generation.

I am sure that we all share the gratitude expressed in the speech from the throne for the change in the war situation. It is fitting that, in the light of the important part which our fighting forces are likely to play in the coming year, the government should have made the gesture of appreciation which they did at the beginning of the debate. I am confident that every hon. member is agreed that this gesture was a fitting one. It is agreed that those hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address made worth-while contributions to this debate. Whether they expressed the point of view of the soldier or the point of view of the Liberal party can well, I think, be left to the good judgment of the men themselves in the armed forces. What we in this group