

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I should like to join with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) in expressing congratulations to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) on the overwhelming victory which he won in the election last June. I thought that the leader of the opposition expressed that feeling of congratulation very graciously, and I sincerely join him in every word he said, and the things which he meant in that connection.

I should also like to express my sincere congratulations to the mover (Mr. Boisvert) and the seconder (Mr. Laing) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It has rarely been my privilege to listen to more eloquent and beautiful addresses in French and in English than I heard on Friday last. Without question you have brought to this house very high ability, and doubtless we shall hear more from you in the days to come.

I should also like to join in expressing sincere regret and sympathy to those who suffered as a result of that most incredible disaster which took place in Toronto harbour last Saturday. I say incredible because it seems almost beyond one's imagination to think that such a thing could happen right within the harbour of that great city. Knowing something about ships, it is difficult for me to understand just what caused such a terrible tragedy. I want to commend the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) for his positive and swift action in ordering an inquiry into the disaster.

I also wish to say how happy I am to see in this house representatives of the newest province of Canada, Newfoundland, and also to see amongst those on the front benches a minister of the crown representing one of the ridings of that province. I join with other members in welcoming to the house these and all other new members, and I express the hope that they will enjoy their experiences here, the family squabbles along with the many instances of family accord that we shall have in the days to come.

I have been thinking of late, Mr. Speaker, about something which was drawn to my attention some weeks ago, and I thought that it was of sufficient importance to merit a place in what I shall say in the few minutes I shall speak this afternoon. I say few minutes advisedly. I am going to follow the example set by the leader of the opposition. I think he sensed that if he spoke too long this afternoon members might feel that he should take some of the feathers out of the wings of his imagination and put them into the tail of his discretion. I noticed that his brief but very fine remarks were greeted with enthusiasm

by members on all sides. I am certainly not going to be guilty of continuing this debate beyond a reasonable time. I thought, however, that this matter which was drawn to my attention a short time ago should also receive the attention of the members of the house.

I refer to what appears to be a concerted drive by certain sections of the Liberal press across Canada to influence the Speaker of this house and the Prime Minister into denying recognition to what these newspapers call splinter parties, and also denying them what they are pleased to describe as the very great privileges that these parties enjoy at the present time. I refer more particularly to the *Lethbridge Herald* and the *Montreal Star*. At first I thought by splinter parties these partisan newspapers might mean the Conservatives and the C.C.F.

I once went to see an entertainer whose specialty was playing the xylophone. I found him to be an accomplished musician, especially on this particular instrument. The climax of his entertainment came when he announced that he would render that famous old selection, "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise". In the course of playing the piece he scattered bits of his precious instrument all over the platform. After the last piece had flown to the far end of the platform he explained to the audience that he believed in doing the job thoroughly. He said, "By rendering the piece I meant splintering it or tearing it to bits." What the Liberals did to the Conservative and the C.C.F. parties in the election of last June, and what they did not do to the Social Credit party, led me to believe at the time these articles appeared that the expression "splinter parties" simply could not refer to us. Nevertheless, these particular newspapers, the *Lethbridge Herald* and the *Montreal Star*, came right out and made it perfectly clear that it was the C.C.F. and the Social Credit parties they meant, and they called us splinter parties.

I do not know of any special recognition, Mr. Speaker, that has ever been granted to us by anybody. Furthermore, I do not know of any special privileges that we have enjoyed beyond membership on committees of the house, which I suppose would have come normally had we been merely members of the opposition. The government has always maintained and retained a majority on all committees. Therefore I cannot quite understand what these newspapers meant, but there is this point that has impressed me. I have never seen a press that has been as inconsistent as the Liberal press of this country. I refer particularly now to the *Lethbridge Herald*. When we held the provincial election in Alberta last year, and