

The Address—Mr. Vincent

government. I say we must increase our productivity; but if the fruits of increased productivity go only to one source, if they go only to labour, then our competitive position will be no better than it is now. If they go only to management or if governments increase their taxation of industry, then our position will be just the same or even worse. We could all benefit from increased productivity but the one who should benefit most is seldom mentioned. I refer to the consumer. A major objective of increased productivity should be not only to get our costs down but to get our prices down. If we can do that at home and abroad, we can also free our minds from these lingering, malignant fears of foreign competition. However, I can only see this being accomplished as a national objective.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would say that there are many people who seem to feel that the results of this last election were disastrous inasmuch as no party was given a majority. I do not feel this is necessarily the case. However, I do feel this presents a great challenge to every individual member. This will cause members of this house to think most soberly of national interest, of Canadian interest. I believe that the people of this country are going to expect from their members of parliament the same discipline, the same spirit of co-operation that Canadians generally are going to be called upon to exercise in ensuing years. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that is the challenge that faces every member here today.

I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Vincent):

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency Major General George P. Vanier, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Military Cross and the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

(Translation):

Mr. Clement Vincent (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, it is with considerable emotion and pride that I utter my first words in this illustrious assembly—an assembly composed of men and women whose mission is to represent the legitimate aspirations of the Canadian people.

The right hon. Prime Minister having done me the honour of asking me to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne, read by His Excellency the Governor

General, the representative of our Gracious Majesty, obliges me to tell you that it is rather the worthy people of my county who deserve this token of esteem on the part of the Prime Minister. It is not the first time he has honoured our fine people. We note with pride that, in 1957, he invited one of our citizens to join his cabinet and, later, recommended his appointment as Lieutenant Governor of the province of Quebec. I take pleasure in paying tribute to my illustrious predecessor, the Hon. Paul Comtois, who is a credit to the agricultural population of the entire province and of the county in particular, by being the first farmer to accede to this high position in my province.

Now, please allow me to salute the men and women of my beautiful county of Nicolet-Yamaska and to state publicly that as long as they have faith in me I shall endeavour to serve them to the best of my ability with the humble talents Divine Providence was kind enough to bestow on me. Is there any need to reaffirm before this house the freedom of expression I have always enjoyed and which I propose to retain in the ranks of this great party which, thanks to its present leader, gave the Canadian people the bill of rights.

I now quote the words spoken by the right hon. Prime Minister during the debates in the House of Commons on July 1, 1961:

I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my own way; free to uphold what I believe is right, free to oppose what I believe is wrong, free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind.

Those words, as I said, prompted me to serve in federal politics, my country, Canada, my province, Quebec, and my county of Nicolet-Yamaska.

(Text):

I now have the opportunity to congratulate the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Chaplin) on his remarkable speech. All of us are certain that the experience he had in the Ontario legislature, and in public affairs generally, will give him a great advantage in serving the country in the way his father did when an hon. member of this house and a former minister of trade and commerce. The men and women in his constituency must be proud of him today.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, when you were chosen as the Speaker of this house, the choice was unanimously accepted. Those of us who are from Quebec feel honoured that one of our own people—who is now a citizen of western Canada—should accede to this eminent position. We know your talents and personal qualifications will make you a Speaker who will be listened to and admired by all.