

The Address—Mr. Denis

the problem. I profoundly believe it is a responsibility of all parties in Canada to manfully face the issue of treatment for these unfortunate sufferers from maladies brought about by the pressures of our modern-day living. I sincerely feel that the welfare of Canadians is of prime importance because Canadians are Canada's greatest asset.

In closing, I should like to say it is a great honour to be in this House of Commons. I should like to pay a specific tribute to a very great Canadian, the Prime Minister and to his cabinet. I look forward with pleasure to working with all hon. members in this house, and I trust that in some small way I may be in a position to serve this great nation.

(Translation):

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to make a few remarks in connection with the present discussion. I owe it to myself, following the example of my colleagues who spoke before me, to congratulate you on your appointment, without forgetting the deputy chairman (Mr. Sevigny), the new ministers (Messrs. Courtemanche and O'Hurley), the mover and seconder of the address (Messrs. Lafreniere and Nielsen). I hope that all, without exception, are more than satisfied with the posts entrusted to them and that they will wish for nothing better. They all have my very best wishes.

I would chide myself not to add a word of sympathy to some other colleagues, Conservative colleagues of course, who were hoping to assume those functions. I commiserate with them. They have been unlucky and the hope they were nurturing has vanished. I wish they may find consolation and comfort comparing their blighted hopes with the rose of which the poet said: "A rose, she lived the span of a rose, the space of a morning."

I shall also congratulate the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) on his phenomenal victory which has almost been unanimous, including Quebec, and, facing such calamity, I shall quote a verse of La Fontaine, from the fable entitled "The Animals Befallen by the Plague". "All did not die, but all were stricken."

However, in the province of Quebec, it is not known yet who is the most popular, the Prime Minister or the Union Nationale. The Prime Minister is aware, no doubt, that the Union Nationale gave a hand in the political struggle and that after such effort

and devotion on the part of both, it is not known who is the more popular of the two. In the constituency of St. Denis, for instance, we did not see the Prime Minister, but we saw the Union Nationale. I do not know if the electors of St. Denis voted for the Prime Minister or for the Union Nationale. In any case, it is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that apparently I should not be able to explain to you how this political machine operated in St. Denis and elsewhere.

Mr. Paul: Could the hon. member explain, while he is at it, the reasons of the Liberal party's defeat in the other areas of Canada?

Mr. Denis: It would be rather easy to give those reasons, but since there are 265 constituencies, if I had to spend five minutes on each of them, I would never come to the end of my explanation. Nevertheless, unlike perhaps the hon. friend who interrupted me, I know what I am talking about, that is the riding of St. Denis, one of the most beautiful. I suppose that my riding comprises, like the others, Canadians of good will. But as far as the popularity of the Prime Minister or the Union Nationale is concerned, I find that in the constituency of St. Denis the rush towards the polls was curiously distributed. The number of electors in the constituency of St. Denis was in 1958 about the same as in 1957. There was about the same number of votes cast in 140 polls. But in about 40 polls, some 30 to 70 of the most loyal, devoted, and dedicated people supporting the Union Nationale or the Conservative party voted in a way contrary to the way people voted in the other 140 polls. Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, that your humble servant was returned with a huge minority in these 40 polls.

Mr. Speaker, I read the speech from the throne with a good deal of curiosity. Thence the admiration I feel for the mover and the seconder who acquitted themselves so well of their task, in spite of the lack of ideas and constructive suggestions to be found in that speech with regard to the solution of the present difficulties.

There is nothing in the speech to show how unemployment is to be solved immediately and permanently. And as far as international trade is concerned, there is nothing there but words about trading with the commonwealth. I will quote here a passage from that famous speech:

"My government believes that the condition of international economic affairs is such as to require major considerate efforts to encourage the expansion of trade."