

The Address—Mrs. G. MacInnis

p.m. tonight, will be suspended. In this regard, I should read to the house section 5 (b) of the provisional standing order 6 which, in the opinion of the Chair, applies in this case. That standing order is as follows:

When a sitting is extended pursuant to section (6) of this order, or when it is provided in any other standing order that the business under consideration at the ordinary time of adjournment shall be disposed of or concluded, the adjournment proceedings in that sitting shall be suspended and that sitting shall not be adjourned except pursuant to a motion to adjourn moved by a minister of the Crown.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Don Jamieson for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Diefenbaker, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Douglas.

[Translation]

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne was awaited impatiently this year by all Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They were waiting hopefully, expecting that in this year of the centennial, the government would mark this anniversary by giving a clear indication of the first legislative steps essential to resolve some of the most urgent problems facing the families of this country. Their hope and their expectations were increased when the Governor General said these words:

This centennial session of parliament provides an opportunity to begin to give effect to our aspirations for the second century of confederation.

What did the government give them? A legislative program? Not at all. A 5,500 word composition filled with pompous generalities. A vision of the promised land without a single road map to reach it.

But even before the speech ended, one could not avoid the suspicion, almost the certainty, that with the present leadership, we would never reach it. There are too many studies in

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

depth, too many white papers, too many task forces that risk misleading us.

[English]

Now, Mr. Speaker, in order to prove myself bilingual I shall turn to the language I know better. I want to say that the speech from the throne sounds very impressive until one begins to reflect on the wide gap between the government's glowing promises of a Canada filled with many, many good things, and its actual performance. Consider the question of housing, for example. I do not intend to deal with it in detail because some of my colleagues will do that, but I wish to refer to it. At the moment this is Canada's No. 1 domestic problem; yet in this 5,500 word speech there are just 38 words devoted to the problem of housing. I shall read them:

You will be invited to consider new housing programs which, while recognizing the primary responsibility of the individual and the other levels of government in the provision of housing, will help to fill requirements that clearly lie ahead.

I want to say that, in my view, today the primary responsibility for providing the housing that is needed in Canada lies with the federal government. In addition the federal government, together with the provinces, should make an over-all assessment of what is required. In my view, that is the primary responsibility today. It is not the primary responsibility of the individual, as the government claims, because today many individuals are quite helpless in so far as their housing needs are concerned.

This afternoon the minister responsible for housing spoke to this house. In view of the statements made in the speech from the throne, we expected he would give us at least a brief outline of what was in store, in the line of housing legislation. He did not do so. Actually what he gave us was a review of the policies of the last few years which resulted in a shortage of at least 20,000 homes, last year to say nothing of the great backlog of housing needs that has been piling up over the years. He referred, in a tone of satisfaction, to the years between 1961 and 1966—I believe those were the years he mentioned. He said that we could look with great satisfaction, and he repeated "great satisfaction," to our achievements in the field of housing. Yet just two years ago, within the compass of the period he mentioned, the minister made this statement with regard to housing:

For all the talk about what we intend to do, for all our efforts, nearly 100,000 Canadian families live every moment of their waking lives under housing conditions that are really appalling—a disgrace to the communities in which they reside.