

Governor General, because of his office, because of his strength of character and of limb, has been divested by the Canadian people of all these human imperfections; he has been idealized as a Canadian par excellence. As an institution, the Governor General, as was stated by His Excellency in his inaugural address, has come to represent the Canadian people as a whole and now symbolizes for Canadians the stability and the continuity of their national life and institutions. In a House divided, as this House finds itself, we must be constantly aware of the importance of these institutions. We must remind ourselves that we are here not to achieve power and to exercise it wisely, but to assure the stability and the continuity of Canadian national life and Canadian institutions. We must preserve them, cherish and ensure them. Mr. Speaker, I wish you to convey to His Excellency the fact that each member of this House recognizes his obligation to the body politic of which His Excellency is the head.

[Translation]

May we ask you, Mr. Speaker, to convey our sympathy to His Excellency on the passing away of a friend and one of his most distinguished Prime Ministers. Lester Bowles Pearson will be remembered as the father of the new Canadian era. The praise bestowed upon him both by the national and international communities will not change what is recorded. He was the man of his time. His experience of international conciliation and his awareness of the viability of the Canadian entity, as well as his acknowledgment of the principle of unity in diversity, have impelled a strong and tolerant Canada and a country which is sure of its future.

Also, I am positive that when he was my own age he certainly did not intend becoming the leader or head of a minority government.

In his book entitled *The Prime Ministers of Canada* Bruce Hutchison had this to say about Mr. Pearson:

• (1210)

[English]

He had no plan for his life but his professors noticed that whatever he undertook was pushed to a conclusion, and perhaps a few of them detected here the makings of a philosophy. Not to plan ahead but to accept every task as it appeared and to do it as well as possible; not to shine in competition but never to fail if he could possibly succeed; not to violate his moral code but not to quarrel with anyone either if he could help it. Such were the instincts of the boy and the methods of the man.

[Translation]

He took office at a time when Canada, in its entity, was becoming aware of its identity. It was a period of intense analysis, when history, the cultural background and the inheritance made our country unique in the world. Everybody was looking for a precedent; nobody found it. This has been the source of often heated debates on the viability of Canada. He himself took part in these debates. And then, finally, we witnessed the birth of a Canadian awareness which resulted in the adoption of the flag which is the symbol of unity, and in the celebration of a centennial which has been unequalled so far.

We are therefore assured of Canada's fate, Mr. Speaker. Through his good-fellowship, his good humour, the flexi-

bility of his dispositions and the firmness of his principles Mr. Pearson has assured us our second century.

[English]

Those are the qualities which, if practiced in this House, will make this parliament a memorable, indeed a fruitful, one. I cannot be deemed to be optimistic if I reflect upon the longevity of the twenty-ninth parliament. Just judging from the questions asked this morning, if the same number need to be answered from day to day we are bound to be here eternally.

October 30, 1972 provided us with a full House, jokers included. This House has received 264 men and women who represent all parts of Canada. There is no need to hedge since we have received a legislative program through the Speech from the Throne which indeed is massive in content. There is meat in that particular document for constructive deliberation of the type in which the people of Nipissing elected me to participate when, through their ballot, they indicated that I should attend this particular assembly. They instructed me to come here to participate in the debate and in the passage of legislation. I am sure that no member of this House was directed by his or her constituents to come to the House to squelch debate. If one were to hold such a statement to be true one would be going directly against the type of parliamentary debate which I have been led to believe honours this House and which is at the basis of the existence of this House. Some members have indicated that they were going to defeat Her Majesty's loyal government immediately upon coming to the House, even before they saw the throne speech or received any information as to what it contained. Surely, to adopt such an attitude is to defeat the purpose of this honourable institution.

I have spoken of my constituents and I now wish to speak of my constituency. My constituency is named Nipissing, and if that offers some difficulty, then for the enlightenment of the members of the House I should like to spell it out for them. It has one "n", an "i", one "p", another "i", two "s's", a third "i" and an "ng". It is a riding that is 240 miles northwest of here and is the southernmost riding of what we refer to as "glorious northern Ontario".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Blais:** The word "Nipissing" is neither French nor English but was coined by the Indians long before Europeans of whatever background came to these shores. It was in 1615 that Samuel de Champlain, known to all, visited my riding, and lo and behold he made notes along his particular vein. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to the words of Samuel de Champlain as they have been related to me at this late date. As I have said, this was in 1615, on July 25, so it was not yesterday.

[Translation]

Pursuing our way by land and leaving the said Algonquin river—