

The Address—Mr. St. Laurent

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sinclair: We are not surprised that frankness surprises him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. May I remind all hon. members that their remarks must be directed to the Speaker.

Mr. Drew: The hon. member who has just spoken has said that we have no reason to be surprised at the frankness, and we have none, because this is the pattern of this government which is using this money power in this way.

Mr. Sinclair: On a point of privilege, since the leader of the opposition used my words I will say I was not surprised that he was surprised at frankness. Everybody in the house knows that frankness is quite unknown to the leader of the opposition.

An hon. Member: They certainly fell for that one.

Mr. Drew: By its refusal to reconvene this conference to which I have referred, the dominion government is not only threatening national unity, but making impossible any solution of our constitutional problems. For that reason this government should not receive the support of hon. members of this House of Commons in the course it is following. By the admission to which I have referred, and by the added admission just made, it is obvious that neither this house nor the people of Canada have any right to have confidence in the government.

Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon):

That the following words be added to the said address:

"We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that Your Excellency's advisers do not possess the confidence of this house."

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with the words of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), in which he expressed his deep sympathy with the Speaker of the other place in the terrible bereavement which has so suddenly overtaken him. I can assure him that all hon. members in the house have experienced a feeling of shock and surprise that the charming lady who so graciously received us on Wednesday afternoon has now passed away.

I should like to extend sincere congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It is a great pleasure to have such good reason to compliment both of them upon the excellence of the speeches they made in the house yesterday. I feel sure we are all of the opinion that they acquitted themselves with personal credit, and thereby brought distinction upon the constituents who elected them to this House of Commons.

The mover of the address in reply (Mr. Brown) is not a newcomer to the house. He has been a member throughout the life of this parliament, and for three years has been the chairman of the committee on Indian affairs. In that capacity he has won both the admiration and the respect of all those who took any part in the valuable work performed by that committee. He has shown like competence and diligence in all his activities in relation to the business of the house. I hope it will not be thought amiss that I should say that he has set a fine example in the way he has sought to serve in the House of Commons the interests not only of his constituents but of the country and the Canadian people as a whole.

(Translation):

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): The seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne is a new member, only recently elected to represent the riding of Laval-Two Mountains.

We are very pleased to have him with us on this side of the house and, after listening to the splendid speech he made yesterday, we realize that his support will be most valuable to this side of the house.

Before his election, he already had a fine reputation because of his public services as an agronomist in the Montreal district. He is an expert on agricultural problems and I am sure he has especially set his heart on working for the interests of the farmers.

In his first appearance in this house, he has shown fluency and cleverness to a degree which is seldom attained by a newcomer.

The electors of Laval-Two Mountains, I am sure, are still prouder today than on election night of the fortunate choice they have made in the person of this member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

(Text):

I should like also to extend a word of congratulation to the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) upon the very interesting address to which we have listened. Of course, he will not expect me to allow this debate to be diverted into the channel he has seen fit to choose, rather than to have it deal with the subject matter of the question now before the house. The matter before the house is an address to His Excellency the Governor General, thanking him for the speech he has addressed to the two houses of parliament, setting out for them the purposes for which this fifth session of the twentieth parliament has been called.

I think we owe some measure of attention to the speech he pronounced, and that it is only proper that that measure of attention