

The Address—Mr. St. Laurent

That is what this government promised without any qualification ten years ago. That is what is needed to preserve and strengthen our federal system. That will be the most effective check on extravagance by this government, because the centralization of taxation encourages extravagance by the very fact that it takes away from local governments those checks which are much more in evidence in governments closer to the people. And may I add that, above all, this is the course of reason and of honour.

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

That the following be added to the address:

"We regret that Your Excellency's advisers have failed:

- (a) To relieve Canadian taxpayers from the burden of excessive and unjust taxation;
- (b) To eliminate waste and extravagance and thereby reduce taxes and the cost of living;
- (c) To take any effective steps to regain the commonwealth markets for food and other products upon which the prosperity of our farmers and other basic producers so directly depends;
- (d) To conduct inquiries in consultation with the provincial governments, so that necessary information may be available for the dominion and provincial governments to consider jointly a national health insurance program;
- (e) To reach agreement with the provincial governments in regard to a clearly defined re-allocation of taxing powers so that the provincial governments and municipal councils may have adequate financial resources to carry out their rapidly increasing responsibilities."

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before attempting to deal with the various matters discussed by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) in the interesting speech to which we have just listened, I should like to take a moment to extend congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the address in response to the speech from the throne. I think a special word of congratulation is due the hon. members for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Deslières) and Waterloo North (Mr. Schneider) because, as newly elected members, they delivered on Friday last their maiden speeches in the house.

When one has to rise for the first time in the House of Commons he is apt to feel that it is something of a trying ordeal; and perhaps when this event takes place so soon after arrival in the house, and with the knowledge that other members have spoken here in previous sessions, an hon. member so placed is apt to feel that the difficulty may be still more forbidding. But I believe we can all say to our new colleagues that we are proud of the manner in which they acquitted themselves, and that they did credit to themselves, and to their constituents. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Deslières) spoke in the two languages.

(Translation):

We were happy to notice how easily he expressed himself in both our official languages, French and English. He gave us the opportunity of listening to a most interesting speech indeed, as regards both its contents and the eloquence which he displayed in expressing his ideas.

(Text):

This hon. member's election to the House of Commons was not by any means the first time he had been elected to public office. I understand that for nine successive years he was a member of the council of Sutton and then for eight years mayor of that municipality. It is quite evident that he acquired in the municipal field experience and knowledge which, added to by his success in his business career and by his experience as governor of the Brome-Missisquoi-Perkins hospital, will be factors in his success in this place, and which I am sure will be put to good account both in the discussion and solution of such problems as we have to deal with here. I believe the citizens of Brome-Missisquoi can be proud of the member they have chosen.

I think that is equally true of the citizens of Waterloo North. Before coming here the hon. member for that constituency had also been active in community affairs. He is a successful businessman. He was chairman of the Kitchener-Waterloo airport commission for many years and is now chairman of the Waterloo-Wellington airport commission. He is a past president of the Kitchener Chamber of Commerce and of the Kitchener-Waterloo Rotary club. He is a member of the Canadian Legion, of the advisory committee for the new St. Jerome's college, is a director of the Waterloo township plowmen's association, of the Kitchener Red Cross Society and the Kitchener-Waterloo federated charities.

The hon. member made a speech to which I feel sure we all listened with interest and, I may add, a speech which is highly gratifying in its demonstration of the ability he has brought to parliament. I think we can all feel that it is fortunate for the people of the whole of Canada that their representatives in parliament continue to be men and women who not only have a wide grasp of public affairs but are men and women of vision who are confident as to the future of their country and who make sacrifices by coming here to do their part in assuring the future of their country.

To come now to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew), I am sure we all agree most wholeheartedly with his opening remarks with respect to the pleasure we will all take in joining in the ceremonies and festivities which will accompany Her