

*The Address—Mr. Bourdages**(Translation):*

Mr. Rodrigue Bourdages (Laval): Mr. Speaker, on the second day of this session of the 24th parliament, my first words are intended directly for the Prime Minister of our country (Mr. Diefenbaker).

I want to tell him how deeply touched I am that he should have chosen me to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I want to thank him sincerely. I also wish to offer him the thanks of the people of the constituency of Laval, who, I am sure, were very flattered by this great honour. Today, Laval is certainly the most densely populated constituency; French Canadians make up almost 95 per cent of its population.

I think that the Prime Minister has proved once more his sincerity and his honesty toward the French Canadians of the country by asking one of their own to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

At this time, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Secretary of State (Mr. Dorion) who was recently appointed chairman of the privy council by our Prime Minister.

Quite recently, the Prime Minister asked a very talented colleague, the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Flynn), who has now been appointed Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, to join his cabinet. I am sure that he will render most valuable services to this country.

Mr. Speaker, Providence has been kind to hon. members of the house in many respects. Among others, we are happy to see you back in the chair, radiant with health and always ready to preside in all dignity and fairness over the numerous debates which take place in this house.

To assist you in that difficult task, the Prime Minister suggested, which was by no means easy, considering the question which had to be put yesterday, the member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue (Mr. Martineau), who has none but friends among us and whose kindly disposition has become a byword, as Deputy Speaker of the house.

At this time, I would like to tender my congratulations to all parliamentary secretaries who have been reappointed, and I also want to express my best wishes to the two new ones.

Mr. Speaker, as I am unable to greet each hon. member individually, may I tender them, without forgetting anyone, my best wishes for a happy new year and the best of health.

(Text):

As every member already knows, Mr. Speaker, the very talented member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Browne) has been

[Mr. Fulton.]

rightly chosen by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) to deliver a speech in approval of the speech from the throne. My colleague was born in Vancouver and I was born in Halifax. We now meet in Ottawa today with the same kind of spirit. It is a coast to coast parley, if one may put it that way. May I congratulate him and wish him all kinds of success.

(Translation):

May I add that, after hearing the speech from the throne read by His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, every hope is possible. Indeed, every Canadian has strong sentiments of pride and gratitude towards His Excellency.

As for my compatriots, they are rejoicing that one of them, a prominent figure, is in this country the representative of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen.

At the outset of this fifth regular session of the 24th parliament, it is important to draw a picture of the events of the last four years on the federal stage. One can thus see the extraordinary improvements in the national life of Canada brought about by a Conservative administration under the able direction of the right hon. the Prime Minister.

As soon as it came into power, the new government was faced with problems of capital importance that were almost insoluble.

The economy was marking time, if not in recession. The price of Canadian commodities was on the rise; our products could not be sold on foreign markets. The building industry was almost at a standstill; moreover, competition from foreign products was taking away from us not only our export markets, but was also threatening our own domestic markets.

What were the consequences of this unfortunate situation? Unemployment was ever increasing in our country; Canada seemed doomed to an economic recession for an indefinite period. Prompt and effective action was necessary. Therefore, the Prime Minister and his lieutenants earnestly set themselves to the task. They united their efforts and their talents. In this way, the disaster that was imminent in 1958 could be avoided; Canadian economy took a new turn. It now seems to be on the way to set new records.

Strong action was taken in all sectors of our economy and, as a result, the Canadian people have enjoyed increased purchasing power in the past four years.

What problems were we faced with? First, there was social security. The Conservative government gave to the aged, the disabled, the blind and the veterans of world wars