

The Address—Mr. Fleming

Mr. Hetland: We will get there safely and at the same time our car will be in good shape, which is very important.

Because I am a Liberal I believe in the Liberal government, and in the next four years I look forward to great things; I look forward to the future with pleasure and confidence.

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity I have had, and I should like to embrace it, to extend to you my very hearty and sincere congratulations on your election to the high office that you hold.

It is in no perfunctory sense that I likewise extend very cordial congratulations to the mover (Mr. Boisvert) and the seconder (Mr. Laing) of the address which is now under debate. The hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Boisvert), in moving the address, made certain remarks in which I took particular interest. At page 15 of *Hansard* he said:

The French spoken in Quebec is not the fancy French spoken by the Parisian. It is the old French of the seventeenth century, which we jealously safeguard, knowing that from the standpoint of basic French it compares with Parisian speech.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, I sometimes feel the urge to deliver speeches here in the French language. I do not know if the French I use is invariably the seventeenth century idiom as also spoken by the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Boisvert).

As a matter of fact, in the course of his visit to my riding during the recent election campaign the representative for Quebec South (Mr. Power) referred to the French I use in this house as "the Sorbonne-Oxford brand of French spoken by the hon. member for Eglinton". I am not very sure but it is quite possible that my French is simply Toronto French.

Now, Mr. Speaker, every time I make a French speech in the house, I do so as evidence of my sympathy with my French-speaking fellow citizens. That is my modest personal contribution to national unity and to the mutual respect felt by the two great races that have built our beloved Canada.

(Text):

I should also like to extend a special and very warm expression of congratulations to the Prime Minister. One would not wish to subtract anything from his triumph, which has been fully recognized in all parts of this house. There is one aspect of that triumph to which I should like to make special reference because I think it is a matter of direct interest to all members of the house. It is certainly something that I am sure is of

[Mr. Knowles.]

direct interest to all Canadians. In the political success which the Prime Minister has enjoyed, and which has been crowned so effectively by the Canadian electorate, I think the name of Madame St. Laurent is deserving of very special and grateful mention on the part of us all because of the very gracious and very great contribution which she has made to her husband's career. As one who counts himself honoured to be acquainted with the members of the Prime Minister's family, I want to say to him that in this country, whose greatness after all depends upon the strength of the Canadian home, his family has been a great credit to him, and as the head of that family he has been a model of the Canadian father and husband. It is worthy of mention also that the leader of the opposition and leaders of the other parties in this house can be congratulated upon the same score. I think that is a matter for pride on the part of the Canadian people and on the part of this Canadian House of Commons.

I do not propose today to discuss at length the terms of the speech from the throne. So far as it is indicated in that speech that measures are to be introduced at a later date, they can best be discussed when the full measures are before us. I believe I shall make a contribution towards shortening the debate if I confine my remarks to several subjects on which direct action appears not to be contemplated and to one upon which action is contemplated in the speech from the throne.

In this country we congratulate ourselves, Mr. Speaker, on the improvement that has occurred in external relations during the past year. It is not quite a year ago that I had the privilege of traversing most of the countries of western Europe and of seeing there the beginning of the recession of communist influence. In a large measure this has been due to the show of united strength and determination on the part of the United Kingdom and the United States to stand up to Russian aggression. It has been due also to the generous assistance rendered by the United States to those countries west of the iron curtain. Marshall aid has performed an invaluable service in the recovery of those western nations and in their determination to resist any further westward march of communist aggression.

We have been taught one lesson, Mr. Speaker, and taught it clearly and emphatically. It is that those who direct communist aggression in the world today do respect strength. They respect determination; that has been abundantly shown. The Atlantic pact has already borne useful fruit. Now that it has been followed by the decision of the United States congress to aid in the rearmament of Europe we may look forward