

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

due deference to the hon. member—it involves a matter of opinion, and I am not entitled to give a legal opinion to the house. As to the third question, this would be a matter of government policy which would be disclosed later. However, I can tell the hon. gentleman that I am having a report prepared for me on this matter and I expect to have it tomorrow.

Mr. Douglas: Has the minister received any request from any persons or organizations or companies asking him to take some action with reference to this absorption of the John Labatt brewery?

Mr. Favreau: In view of the fact that I have been Minister of Justice for only a few days I have received no request personally. As I said a few moments ago, I have asked for a memorandum on all the facts and I expect to have this before me by tomorrow morning.

SUGGESTED INTEREST FREE LOANS BY GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gerard Perron (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of Finance.

According to the speech from the throne, interest free loans would be granted to needy university students.

Does that mean that the ministry recognizes not only the possibility but the necessity of making interest free loans as Social Credit has been advocating for at least twenty five years?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I do not think there is any relationship between the two situations.

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES

SITE FOR NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temisca-tingue): I wonder if the Prime Minister is in a position to make the promised report concerning the proposed site for the national centre of the performing arts.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I think I shall be in a better position to make a complete report on Monday next.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, February 19, consideration of the motion of

[Mr. Favreau.]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Cote for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, following the traditional course—and I do it not because it is a formality—I extend my congratulations to the mover, the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Cote) and the seconder, the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Basford) on the speeches they gave yesterday. Indeed, one of the happy privileges of parliament is to be able to witness the coming into the house of young men and women who by the ability and capacity demonstrated in their speeches augur well for their future and also that of parliament.

I want to first say a word on parliament. During the course of his remarks yesterday one hon. gentleman indicated that parliament would be effective if the opposition was effective. That was the interpretation I placed on his words. I can say that certainly the government will be effective if the opposition is effective.

I am glad to see that one of the daily newspapers—I refer to the *Globe and Mail*—today started a system, which I hope other papers will follow, of giving reasonably full information as to what has taken place in the house. I have particular reference to a summary of the speeches made by hon. gentlemen. This is a system that is followed in the United Kingdom by important metropolitan newspapers. It is one that is commendable, in that it gives to young members particularly the knowledge that the important things they have placed before parliament will receive attention, and at the same time it provides for the people as a whole information on parliament which would otherwise not be procurable excepting through the medium of *Hansard* itself.

I hope that at the earliest possible date the committee on rules will again be set up, to the end that under your distinguished leadership, Mr. Speaker, we shall be able, without in any way diminishing the rights of parliament to full debate, to assure a greater degree of efficiency and effectiveness than would otherwise be the case.

I know there is need for change. Your Honour has recently been in the United Kingdom and there saw at first hand something of the operation of the mother of parliaments, something of its tradition and of the degree to which, in the perspective of years, it has brought about an effectiveness that has preserved not only that nation but also, in large measure, mankind in two wars in which freedom was challenged.