

The Address—Mr. Pearson

I am not in a position to make any predictions about the outcome of the negotiations now under way.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORTED SITE FOR BOMARC ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE BASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Garland (Nipissing): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. While I recognize that it may not be desirable to give out precise locations of certain types of defence installations, having in mind the importance of the subject matter is the minister now in a position to confirm the Canadian Press story published from coast to coast last week that one of the two Bomarc anti-aircraft missile bases to be established in Canada is to be located near North Bay?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): I thank the hon. member for sending me notice of his question, and would reply that several sites in northern Ontario and Quebec, including that mentioned by the hon. member, have been surveyed and soil analyses taken for various defence projects. Until all reports have been received and studied no decision can be made. In any event, it has never been the practice to announce the exact location and purpose of such defence installations.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Friday, January 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. W. H. Jorgenson for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): In rising to take part in this debate, Mr. Speaker, my first words as the house would expect, must be those of congratulation to the mover (Mr. Jorgenson) and seconder (Mr. Fortin) of the address in reply. I say this very sincerely indeed. It seemed to me that the mover, the hon. member for Provencher, spoke thoughtfully, with restraint and with as much objectivity as one could expect in a situation of this kind. I do congratulate him very sincerely for what was a good initiation of this debate.

I should like also to congratulate the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet, especially since this was his maiden speech. He spoke with conviction and with eloquence, and in the concluding part of his speech made an appeal for national unity which I think moved every member of this house. I think, and I am

confident, that every member of this house of every party is inspired by the same ideal of national unity to which the hon. member made such eloquent reference.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I may be allowed also on this occasion to congratulate the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) on his return to Canada in full health and vigour from a world tour which must have been to him as stimulating and valuable an experience as it was, I am sure, exhausting. We remember, Mr. Speaker, how great a strain such a tour was on his predecessor, Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent. Mr. St. Laurent, of course, made his tour after the wear and tear of six years as prime minister which were bound to make the physical stresses of such a tour even greater than they would otherwise have been. The speech from the throne makes a reference to the Prime Minister's visits throughout the commonwealth, and I have no doubt we will be receiving from him, perhaps as he follows me, a report of this trip, which in the words of the speech from the throne served to vitalize our close relations with the commonwealth.

I, Mr. Speaker, intend to use the speech from the throne on this occasion, as the house would expect me to do, to survey and criticize some aspects of government policy. Obviously I cannot cover that very broad field on this occasion, but there will be other opportunities. Today, though I am afraid I shall be speaking at some length, I shall still be selective. The speech from the throne is a list of government proposals and a not very subtle praising of government policy put in the mouth, as is customary, of Her Majesty's representative in Canada by the government of the day which takes the responsibility for the substance of the speech. It gives a most misleading impression, in some cases by giving no impression at all, of the state of the nation in January, 1959, with a very perfunctory reference indeed to some of the most difficult and dangerous situations that have confronted this country for many, many years. You would never know it, Mr. Speaker, from the words used in the speech from the throne.

As was the case last year, the speech is more understandable for what it leaves out than for what it contains. Mr. Arthur Blakely, the columnist for the *Montreal Gazette*, commenting on the speech the other day referred to the unmentionables that did not appear in it. They are not unmentionables, Mr. Speaker, but they were certainly unmentioned. We on this side of the house, Her Majesty's loyal opposition, propose to mention them during the course of this debate. I begin the process of repairing that omission right now.