

by Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson, for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. John J. MacDonald: Honourable senators, I know that you all are gazing on me because you realize this is my first address in the Senate. May I at this moment, like those who have preceded me, extend to the Honourable the Speaker my sincerest congratulations upon his re-election as Speaker of this house. May I also extend my heartiest congratulations to the mover and to the seconder of the Address. Both these gentlemen, no doubt, are learned in the law, and could not fail to do full justice to an occasion of this kind.

I greatly appreciate, too, the privilege of extending congratulations to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), who recently delivered here such a fair-minded address. There was an old friend of mine, now dead, who I know would have liked nothing better than to have joined in this expression of appreciation. I refer to the late W. Chester McLure, who spent 12 years as a member of the House of Commons. It is, of course, also my privilege at this time to appreciate the leadership of our present and, I hope, future Leader of the Government here (Hon. Mr. Asestine). He has an amiable disposition; I know he wants to be fair, and it is his aim, I believe, to maintain here a happy family atmosphere, although, no doubt, as in the best of families, "ruckuses" will strike up occasionally.

I may recall that on May 12, at the opening of the session here, I was escorted into the chamber to take the oath and be introduced to the Honourable the Speaker. Afterwards, as I sat waiting for the others to be introduced, I looked around me and said to myself: "Heavens, I am gazing at men who are university graduates, men learned in law, in business, in medicine, and what have you. Here am I: the only degree that I can boast of is a degree from that great university of hard knocks and experience." I found out a few days afterwards that I was not alone in that respect, and in saying so I have in mind an honourable friend of mine across the way. And I hope, as a certain timidity wears off, I shall be able to follow along with some degree of acceptance.

Perhaps I may be pardoned for saying I have been around a little bit. I recall back in 1914, when as a resident of the province of Alberta I had some flair for local politics—I was not too young then, either—I happened to drop into the local Legislature during what was, I believe, the short session which followed the beginning of World War I. There I listened to a young man seconding the Address in reply to the Speech from the

Throne; and who was it but our honourable colleague from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon). So he comes from the West and I come from the East.

I would like to mention another fact. I know that this will not be of much interest to most of you but I am sort of filling in, building up to the point where I get into the meat of what I want to talk about. I recall that the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislature that day was no less a person than Edward Michener, who was always busy advocating the rights and principles of the party to which I happened to belong. He later was appointed to this chamber and was probably an associate for some years of many of you here. Today I find that his son, the Honourable Roland Michener, is Speaker of the House of Commons, and I would not be at all surprised if after a few years he also is appointed to this chamber.

I suppose it is a little late in the year to be paying certain compliments, but irrespective of my political affiliations I would like to pay tribute to the Honourable Lester B. Pearson, the Leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition in the House of Commons. I am sure that most Canadians were proud of Mr. Pearson when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. I am broadminded enough to say that although I am not of his political following I was proud of his achievement. It was quite a compliment to all of Canada when Mr. Pearson went to Oslo, Norway, to receive his award. Incidentally, Oslo is situated near the 60th parallel, and it is interesting to know that many densely populated cities such as Stockholm, Helsinki and Leningrad are located near the 60th parallel as it crosses their respective countries.

I am just going to leave this topic for the moment and drift to something else. Probably you will think I am going to get into partisan politics. I want to avoid this subject but at the same time I want to recall that on March 31 last the party of the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker was elected by a huge majority. Many Liberal members who sat in the House of Commons after the election of June 10, 1957 failed to come back after the election of March 31, and their supporters, like many supporters of the C.C.F. party and the Social Credit party, apparently got behind the Conservative party. As honourable senators will remember, one of the chief planks in Mr. Diefenbaker's platform was the pushing back of the frontiers toward the north, toward the 60th parallel. I want to quote some figures to honourable senators. Incidentally, I am not yet able to identify all honourable senators by their constituencies but I can name them. Men who, like the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), have spent many years in the House