

to congratulate and thank him. In so doing, he not only rendered justice to the English provinces and to Canadians of all extractions, but in Quebec he respected our pride in the belief that our religious aspirations and our Latin culture could not be considered in any other section of the country as an obstacle to the development throughout the country of really Canadian political sense.

Honourable senators, may I, in addressing this tribute of admiration to my leader, express my deep esteem and my profound sympathy to his predecessor, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, who felt he should withdraw from the direction of his party and from political activity. He represented in the eyes of his province and of the whole country the essence of honour and, in his time, he achieved great things which will have a happy influence on Canada's destiny.

It is with such feelings, honourable senators, that I have the honour to move the Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

(Text):

**Hon. Gunnar S. Thorvaldson:** Honourable senators, may I first congratulate the honourable senator from Mille Isles (Hon. Mr. Monette) upon the dignified and eloquent manner in which he has discharged the duty laid upon him of moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson:** In the same breath, I wish to apologize to the honourable gentleman for the fact that I am not able as yet to follow the meaning of his speech as fully as I would like to do, but I want to say to him that at least I hope that defect will be cured before I have been here too many years.

I also am happy to have the opportunity of speaking for the first time in this house in the role of seconding the motion that the honourable gentleman has made. I deem it not only a personal honour but also an honour to the province which I among others, represent in this house, namely, the province of Manitoba.

In eastern Canada, Manitoba is generally thought of as a young part of Canada. Well, it may be young in terms of modern development, but it is old in history. I am somewhat sorry that the honourable senator from

Shawinigan (Hon. Mr. Méthot) does not happen to be in his seat this afternoon because I want to say something that I think would interest him more than others in this house. That is, I wish to refer to the close historical association of his community, Trois Rivières, with the province of Manitoba. As early as the year 1611 those intrepid explorers, Pierre Radisson and Sieur de Groseilliers left Trois Rivières on an expedition to the West which, it is believed, brought them, as the first white men, to gaze upon the waters of Lake Winnipeg. There is no doubt in any event that they were the first white men to reach the west end of Lake Superior, where indeed the West begins. But the connection does not end there. Some 60 years later—and that indicates how young they were when first they went on the expedition that I referred to—the same Radisson and de Groseilliers were advisers to King Charles II when he granted the famous charter to Prince Rupert and his Company of Merchant Adventurers trading into Hudson's Bay. The date of that charter was May 2, 1670. And from our point of view the history of my part of Canada can be said to have begun in that year.

My next words should appropriately be an expression of thanks and appreciation to the members of this body for their obviously warm and sincere welcome to myself as a newcomer in this house. And I am sure that my fellow neophyte senators who were also sworn in as members of the Senate on the opening day of this Parliament would wish me to express this appreciation on their behalf as well as on my own.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to do something more than merely congratulate you upon your continuance in the high office of Speaker of the Senate, which I now do. But I would also like to pay tribute to the distinguished service which you performed for the very institution of Parliament itself in the conspicuously dignified manner in which you performed the function of your office, for all Canadians to see, at the opening of Canada's Twenty-Third Parliament by Her Majesty the Queen last October. That was indeed a momentous occasion in the political life of Canada and especially in the awareness of Parliament which became manifested in the minds and hearts of individual Canadians in every part of this far-flung country.

I would now like to be allowed to express to the person whom I have known longer than anyone else in this house, the honour-