

I am sure hon. members know there is not a rail passenger service in Canada, at least I do not know of one, that is paying its way. So, Mr. Speaker, why pick on Newfoundland where there is a greater need for transportation than in any other province in Canada? Why pick on us? Why not do this in the other provinces? I am sure there is no rail passenger service in other provinces that is making money.

I serve notice on the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), I serve notice on the government of Canada, and I serve notice on the people of Canada that the people of Newfoundland are not going to sit by and see their "Newfoundland Bullet", if you want to call it that, taken away. We are going to fight this to the last man and I hope we will have the support of this house, and of the Canadian people, in our efforts to retain that which is rightfully ours, an adequate rail passenger service across the province of Newfoundland.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Carier: We Newfoundlanders want to be partners in this great and wonderful confederation. We are not asking for special status. But let me tell you, sir, and let the word go out today to all of Canada, that we will not accept anything less than equal status. We are not asking for special status but we will insist on equal status.

My fellow Newfoundlanders share my vision of a great and glorious Canada. They share my vision of a Canada where our children will stand tall and walk straight, where they will weep with pride as they sing "O Canada, our home our native land," as did their forefathers when they sang their national anthem:

When sun rays crown thy pine clad hills
And summer spreads her hand,
When silvern voices tune thy rills,
God guard thee Newfoundland.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, even though I have been sitting in this house for the last three years I feel like taking the floor this afternoon to make my maiden speech. As you know, during those three years I was relegated to the other end of the chamber and did not have the opportunity I have now to work with a team, a strong team and a good team, one that impresses me a lot.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

The Address—Mr. Mongrain

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Speaker, from the beginning of this debate, flowers, I should say heaps of flowers, fragrant, bright and perfectly well-deserved have been showered upon the incumbent of this position and all those appointed to assist him in his functions. I would not want to repeat everything which was said, but like many of my colleagues, I join in the praises offered to the Speaker and to those appointed to assist him in his task.

Mr. Speaker, I would like also, while I pay you these compliments—

[*English*]

I would like to make special mention of the Assistant Clerk of the house, Mr. Dubroy, who presented us with a magnificent performance as a result of his facility in remembering the names of new members, whom he has probably never seen before, as well as the names of new ridings. I think he deserves the highest congratulations.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Usually, Mr. Speaker, the mover and the seconder (Messrs. Corbin and Marchand) of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne perform their duties with great seriousness, that is sure, and spend a great deal of time preparing themselves. Usually, they make speeches which attract the attention of the whole house. But I think that this year, the mover and the seconder (Messrs. Corbin and Marchand) performed their task in a more brilliant way than those I had the opportunity to hear in the past, and I should like to congratulate them for it.

For those who, like me, start to grow old, it is comforting, Mr. Speaker, to see that such fine young people, bright, conscientious and quite well-informed, with a sense of responsibility will continue in the furrow which we ploughed for 20 or 25 years in various aspects of the public life. Therefore, I offer them my congratulations.

Of course, I should like also to congratulate the leaders of the parties, first for their reelection and then for the seriousness with which they carry out their duties.

It is comforting I think, Mr. Speaker, for a member interested in the welfare of his country, to realize to what degree of responsibility—I mention the opposition only because, I will refer to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) soon—the Leader of the