

The Address—Mr. Dumas

On another occasion when there is more time, Mr. Speaker, I will develop these thoughts in more detail, but I do not wish to take too much of the time of the house, or go too deeply into detail now, even if I were an expert, which I am not. Perhaps none of us is. I am certainly not qualified to go in great detail into the technical aspects of it. But this I do know—that the potentialities and the resources of that Fraser river basin of British Columbia, in common with the northern areas of this country generally, are almost totally unsuspected and untapped by the people of Canada. The great challenge to develop them which faces us cannot be neglected, cannot be left unaccepted, any longer.

We are faced with the necessity of providing for huge expenditures on social security projects and on defence, and to meet our commitments to supply raw materials and equipment to our North Atlantic allies. Perhaps that is the most urgent reason why we must face this problem of developing our country's resources. But in addition to that there is the vision of a great Canada which all of us may dream, a Canada which is the centre of the British commonwealth of nations, a great nation in her own right. We see her as the magnet to which all peace-loving nations are drawn, and particularly as the unit around which the commonwealth, which means so much to us, has solidified and stands as a contribution to world peace. In short, we see Canada as a nation whose people are not afraid to accept the challenge of the future, the challenge which problems of the world today pose for us. We have here a nation whose people are justly confident that their ideas are a threat to no one, but that their potential will be a real contribution to world peace and prosperity. We must then go forward, prepared to meet the challenge and to take action to develop the resources which will bring such inestimable good to the whole of mankind.

(Translation):

Mr. Armand Dumas (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I am a late-comer. I feel, however, it is my duty to say a few words on the address in reply. Because I shall be brief, I hope to gain the sympathy of the house.

To the congratulations extended to the mover of the address (Mr. Cauchon) and the seconder (Mr. Simmons) I wish, first of all, to add my own. They performed their task most tactfully. As do many other members I envy the hon. member for Beauharnois his eloquence. He spoke very feelingly of

[Mr. Fulton.]

unity. My good friend from Yukon and the Mackenzie River district took us on a trip to the far north, that beautiful and great country with unlimited natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I wish right now to fulfil a very agreeable duty.

On behalf of the veterans of my constituency, of their associations and in my own name I wish to congratulate and thank the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe) for the announcement he made in the house last Friday.

I congratulate the minister for the magnificent way in which he explained to his colleagues the proposed amendments to the basic rates of veterans' pensions. It was clear and accurate that he obtained a generous increase. I also thank him for his great devotion to and affection for his comrades in arms.

In addition, at the beginning of the present session, the Minister of Veterans Affairs informed the house that in the early days of the 1952 session a parliamentary committee will be set up to examine proposed amendments to the War Veterans Allowance Act, amendments which will be made retroactive to January 1, 1952.

The veterans of my constituency and myself would have liked to see this act amended during the present session. However, having listened to the minister's explanations, we well understand that it would be quite unreasonable to proceed any faster.

The main reason for which this second session is being held in 1951 is the old age security bill, which will soon take its place on our statute books. I wish to say that the people of the constituency of Villeneuve are grateful to the government for having hastened the adoption of this measure designed to ensure the security of our older people. In this connection I also wish to congratulate the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) in particular, as well as the chairman and members of this house who served on that committee.

The speech from the throne, Mr. Speaker, also forecasts a number of very important and far-reaching measures, such as the St. Lawrence seaway project, the construction of a causeway across the strait of Canso, an irrigation project beneficial to the people of southern Saskatchewan, an amendment to the