

*The Address—Miss F. MacDonald*

united Canada where both official languages and both cultures will thrive in peace, brotherhood and, above all, the respect for individuals.

[English]

Representing a riding which, by historical associations within our capital, has a rich heritage of architectural and educational values, it pleases me to note in the Speech from the Throne that, in co-operation with the provinces, we will provide assistance for the rehabilitation of older neighbourhoods. We must preserve our cherished neighbourhoods where a certain type of life has been created, and where tradition has helped shape the eventual national capital and, indeed, reflected itself on to the whole of Canada.

The people of my riding are most appreciative of and attentive to the social security measures which will be reconsidered and reorganized. With a large population of senior citizens who have contributed so much to this country, it is indeed warming to their hearts to see that they will be treated with compassion and equity with a guaranteed annual income.

[Translation]

A large number of citizens of my riding have low incomes. The opportunity for them to buy and live in their own house, with the help of the federal and provincial governments, will give them another opportunity of finding family atmosphere and benefitting from an economic factor in real estate which they could not have hoped for otherwise.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, allow me to remind you of a passage in Saint-Exupéry's "The Little Prince". You will recall that when the little prince met the fox, he hoped to befriend him, for he was sad. But then the fox replied that he could not play with him because he was not tame. Thereupon the little prince asked what the word "tame" meant. "It means," replied the fox, "to create ties".

Of course, said the fox. To me, you are still just one little boy out of hundreds of thousands of little boys. I do not need you. And you don't need me either. To you, I am just a fox similar to hundreds of thousands of other foxes. But, if you tame me, we will need each other. You will become unique in the world for me. I shall become unique in the world for you . . .

That is what Canada means to me, Mr. Speaker: the close ties between two great peoples who are part of a country that is unique in the world.

[English]

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands):** I should like to add my sincere congratulations to the many already expressed on your election to the high office you hold, Mr. Speaker. Two days ago in the House, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner), mentioned his participation in Mr. Speaker's first nominating convention. Sir, I remember participating in an equally auspicious occasion, the recounting of votes that followed Mr. Speaker's first election campaign. And I maintain, Sir, that throughout those tense days you displayed the same impartial and objective approach, to those of all political persuasions who were involved in that recount, that has since earned

[Mr. Gauthier (Ottawa East).]

for you the high regard and respect in which you are held in this House and beyond.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands):** It is a great privilege and honour to rise in this House today as the representative for the historic riding of Kingston and The Islands which has contributed so much to the development of this great country. This year we celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Kingston in 1673 by Frontenac, and today, January 11, is the anniversary of the birth of Kingston's first Member of Parliament, Sir John A. Macdonald.

• (1520)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands):** While I do not mind sharing him with the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon), I would remind him that he is uniquely and distinctly Kingston's.

Sir John A. popularized many things in his time, not the least of which was to encourage hon. members to be born on his birthday. I am sure you will understand, Sir, if I take time to express my greetings to the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell) the hon. member for Gander-Twilligate (Mr. Lundrigan), the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie) and the hon. member for Lafontaine (Mr. Lachance) on their special occasions.

What Frontenac in his time, and Macdonald in his, built on this continent they had to defend against military threat, political intrigue and the scepticism or the selfishness of men whose vision was small. Frontenac in the 17th century, and Macdonald in the 19th, had ambitions for Canada that transcended the times they lived in and the territory they occupied. Both men looked west. Frontenac extended the power of the King of France into the heart of North America. Macdonald's breathtaking concept of achievement was to secure half the continent to hand on to succeeding generations of Canadians.

I will not belabour the parallel between Frontenac and Macdonald. Their legacy belongs to each of us as Canadians and will be shared by many millions of Canadians to come. The House will understand if on this day especially I claim that special part of the Frontenac and Macdonald heritage which belongs uniquely to the people of Kingston and the Islands. Over the years the constituency of Kingston and the Islands has been represented in this House by many distinguished and remarkably gifted members. I assure the House that I am acutely aware of the exceptionally high standard of service to Canada that they have set.

And none more so than Sir John A. Macdonald—who first spelled out for this country a national policy—as we in our time are engaged in developing a new national policy. It is on several aspects of a new national policy that I wish to speak this afternoon. It is impossible—and indeed foolish—to try to escape the hand of the past in a place like Kingston. It was here that the parliament of the United Canadas sat in 1841. It was here, in the words of Kingston's motto, where the confederation dream began.