

Honourable senators, there is in this chamber another most distinguished person whom I wish to welcome, and who must assume the responsibility for the perilous honour which I have had the temerity to accept, that of seconding the motion of the honourable senator from Victoria. I speak of the likeable and—I might as well say it—the irresistible Leader of the Government in this house (Hon. Mr. Macdonald). Elected for the first time in 1935, we sat together for eighteen years in what we are agreed to call “the other place”.

Hon. Mr. Euler: No! Call it the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. Tremblay: I was, therefore, in a position to follow his steady and well-deserved rise from the ranks of backbenchers to the Speaker's Chair in that house.

It is sufficient for me to say that in all the public positions which he has filled with such a rare perfection, his infectious good humour, his unruffled tactfulness, his proverbial good nature, the skill which he possesses in the highest degree of making friends and of keeping them, his deep sense of duty and his eagerness to serve his fellowmen, convince us that he will continue for a long time his march towards new summits.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

(Translation):

Hon. Mr. Tremblay: May I be allowed, since we all know that he is bilingual, to express in French my deep appreciation of the honour which he has seen fit to bestow upon the people I represent in the Senate, in asking me to second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

To the honourable senator from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Godbout), I wish to offer my warmest congratulations upon the fine mark of trust placed in him when he was called to share the responsibilities of the Leader of the Senate. This son of Quebec is an honour to his province and we are proud of him; his appointment is a matter of satisfaction to his compatriots who have the greatest affection and the deepest admiration for him. To this man, also, who accomplished great things for province and country when Canada was at grips with the most terrible dangers of its whole history, we extend our wishes for success and the hope that the coming years may offer him many other and greater opportunities of devoting his talents and his patriotism to the service of his fellow citizens.

(Text):

In welcoming the newly appointed senators last year, my very good friend the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr.

Crerar), with whom I had the honour to sit for ten years in the other place, recalled certain weaknesses of your servant for vocal music and his incorrigible habit of urging his colleagues to sing in a chorus when the bell called the “Commoners” for a division. He even invited me to introduce in this honourable chamber that old and somewhat noisy custom which rather belongs to another place. I thank him for his generous and cordial welcome, but I hesitate to accept his kind invitation to sing. Let him not worry, however. The reason for this attitude of mine does not stem from a feeling of having grown older since having been introduced into the new atmosphere, so calm, so congenial and so pleasant, of the Upper Chamber. On the contrary, in coming here one has the impression of getting younger, for the hearty and spontaneous welcome one receives from Your Honour and all honourable senators produces on newcomers the same effect as the Fountain of Youth. Having listened to the encouraging speech of our honourable lady colleague from Victoria, I may say that if ever my former habit gets the best of me, I will undoubtedly sing again *Let me call you Sweetheart*, and not *Darling I am growing old*.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

(Translation):

Hon. Mr. Tremblay: Honourable senators, although the Speech from the Throne may not justify excessive optimism in regard to world problems, it none the less leaves a comforting impression and shows us that, through their laborious efforts, the Western nations are firmly and efficiently progressing toward their ideal of peace.

“... While the resources of diplomacy must never be neglected in the search for peace,” the Speech from the Throne states, “the efforts of the free nations in building their deterrent forces must be maintained.”

It is generally acknowledged that the first duty of democratic nations is to build and maintain the best defence system—I mean collective defence—they can possibly provide. Toward this end Canada must and does in fact contribute generously. We are happy to express our satisfaction to the Government of our country whose external policy, I am sure, has the unanimous approval of the Canadian people.

May I take this opportunity of telling the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, the Right Honourable C. D. Howe, the Honourable Lester Pearson, the Honourable Paul Martin and all the other ministers who so efficiently second the Prime Minister, how much we appreciate their efforts and their inestimable contribution to the building of a true and