

Hon. Mr. Robichaud — March 3

Now the continuing committee will meet on the 14th of March. They will reconsider this and we hope that they will find modifications to that plan. Somebody suggested a while ago that "Premier Robichaud would not have been satisfied whatever Ottawa would have given us."

Mr. LAWRENCE: That's right.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: If Ottawa would simply give us what I suggested here, what I demanded there and what the opposition should demand with the government, I can assure you that I for one will be satisfied and I will say so to the opposition here and to the government of Canada and to the Canadian people generally. Let us have this and we will be happy.

#### Recorded Vote Asked

Continuing, he (the Premier) said that because of the importance of the motion and because everybody in the Legislature should be identified with or without the cause of all New Brunswickers, he would ask for a recorded vote.

He added:

But before doing so, though, I should like to withdraw the word "unanimously" in the resolution itself, and it would read — that is, with the consent of my seconder — "Be it resolved that this legislative assembly of New Brunswick" — then I shall withdraw the word "unanimously" — "support the government of New Brunswick . . ." etc. And I'm doing that disappointedly because I thought for sure that we would be unanimous.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a recorded vote.

OPP. MEMBERS: The answer is no, no, no, no!

#### Point Of Order

Mr. JONAH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Is that an amendment to this motion? Do you have it put by way of an amendment?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house to withdraw the word "unanimous"? For it, yea?

GOVT. MEMBERS: Yea.

Mr. MCCAIN: It should be put as an amendment.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Do you want to vote for the motion, without the word "unanimous"?

#### Rulings

Mr. SPEAKER: If it's not the consent of the house to withdraw the word "unanimous" the Hon. the Premier has not the privilege to make an amendment to his motion.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: I would be if the Opposition Leader would agree to deleting the word "unanimous", because we are not unanimous, and that is why I made the suggestion. But if they oppose it, I still ask for a recorded vote.

#### Point Of Order

Mr. JONAH: On a point of order, he didn't ask us to be unanimous, he asked, with the consent of his seconder, to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. SHERWOOD: Mr. Speaker, the exclusion of the word "unanimous" still wouldn't leave the opposition in any position whatsoever to support this motion — —

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, please!

Mr. JONAH: He's speaking to the point of order.

Mr. MCINERNEY (Saint John City): He's speaking on the amendment.

#### Delection Of "Unanimous" Refused

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the house grant leave unanimously to take the word "unanimous" out of this motion?

OPP. MEMBERS: No, we certainly don't. Withdraw the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Those for it, yea?

GOVT. MEMBERS: Yea.

Mr. SPEAKER: Against it, nay?

OPP. MEMBERS: Nay.

#### Division

Mr. SPEAKER called for the ringing of the division bells and a vote of 28 yeas and 17 nays was recorded as follows:

Yeas — Hon. Mr. Webber, Hon. Mr. Richard, Hon. Mr. Robichaud, Hon. Mr. DesBrisay, Hon. Mr. Dumont, Hon. Mr. Crocker, Hon. Mr. Levesque, Hon. Mr. Irwin, Hon. Mr. Harper, Hon. Mr. Fournier, Mr. Dyrart, Mr. Leger, Hon. Mr. Duffie, Hon. Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Duffie (Victoria), Mr. Alexander, Mr. Savoie, Mr. Jean, Mr. Mitton, Mr. Robichaud (Moncton City), Mr. Theriault, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Small, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Guerette, Mr. Williamson, Mr. L. Levesque, Mr. MacFarlane. Total — 28 yeas.

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Nays — Mr. Taylor, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Sherwood, Mr. McInerney (York), Mr. Brooks, Mr. McInerney (Saint John City), Mr. Keith, Mr. Jonah, Mr. Bishop, Mr. McCain, Mr. Ames, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Newcomb, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. McIlveen, Mr. Stairs, Mr. Pendrigh. Total — 17 nays.

#### Vote Carried (Motion)

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion carried.

#### Address Debate

Order of the day —

Hon. Mr. DUMONT, rising to resume the debate on the speech from the throne, spoke as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

Apparently it's never too late for a maiden speech. I did not expect that it would be heralded by such stormy weather and I do hope that I can bring back serenity to this assembly and a bit of sunshine even though it's midnight.

Mr. Speaker, after a few weeks of recess, during which each member of our respective political teams have had ample time to pause and ponder on his responsibilities, I am sure that we are all happy and in readiness to carry out our obligations, and indeed we had a good example given of this today.

Indeed, Sir, every member of this assembly is conscious and aware of the fact that we are living through critical times. We know that in large areas of the world poverty, hunger, starvation, unemployment, hot and cold war prevail. Here in Canada and in our province such conditions of distress and social unrest are unknown.

Of course, we are somewhat concerned about the unemployment situation, which is far from being what we would hope it to be. However, I believe that in the main we live in a resourceful province with great opportunities, if we could only bring our economy in these Atlantic Provinces up to the national level. This we must strive to do.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, we New Brunswickers are blessed in that we are a united people, living in harmony and friendship, dedicated to serve the cause of justice, charity and peace.

In so doing, and inspired by these high motives and ideals, we feel, Sir, that we are helping ourselves and our neighbors, in cooperation with our sister provinces, to serve Canada and contribute our share towards the development and growth of our nation.

Of this, Sir, I feel sure, that whatever may be our political differences, every member of this house is convinced. This is our common goal and ambition, the uniting link of our two parties that make us friends and partners for the common good of our people.

In this connection, as far as I am personally concerned, I might interject here, Sir, that I had a good example of this yesterday in the speech made by the hon. member for Carleton. I would like to say that it is very gratifying and encouraging when an opposition member of this house "Stairs" at me in such a kindly fashion. I want to thank the hon. member for his good words and I can assure him and all members of this assembly that my only wish is that I may live up to his expectations.

Mr. Speaker, in this my maiden speech, I find that I am fortunate that I should be called to do so on the occasion of our resuming the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I feel highly honored, Sir, in having the privilege at this time, to join with all the citizens of the province and especially with my constituents of Restigouche in extending and re-offering our respectful homage, our loyal devotion and our unswerving fidelity to our Gracious Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. Speaker, I also regard it a favor when I am given the opportunity to convey sincere greetings and loyal good wishes to His Honour Lieutenant-Governor J. L. O'Brien, who has with such great dignity represented Her Majesty at the official opening last fall, of this 44th Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. To His Honour and to Mrs. O'Brien we extend our sincere wishes that good health and happiness be their lot for many years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, we have listened with great interest to the speeches made here by the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Mr. Leon Small, member for Charlotte, and

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Mr. Patrick Guerette, member for Restigouche, like many of us are new members of the house. I was certainly impressed by their speeches and was proud of them. I extend to both my warmest congratulations. I am sure that their respective constituents were highly honored as both brought to light the glowing fame of their counties.

Mr. Speaker, having had the advantage in my early years in Rogersville to live next neighbor to your late grandfather, Mr. Fidele Richard, I am fortunate in knowing some precious elements of your ancestry.

For almost half a century your distinguished grandfather was Rogersville's postmaster. For as many years he was the organist and precentor in the church. I am sure very few, if any, ever knew anything about his political affiliation, but everyone knew him to be a quiet, honest and God-loving citizen. He was a good father, conscientiously devoted to his family and duty, highly regarded and esteemed by all.

As to your late father, Sir, I knew him as a young boy. We were neighbors and good friends. At school and on the playgrounds, although a few years younger than him, I still remember how fair and honest he was.

I am sure that as he left Rogersville for Shippegan he brought with him and exemplified in his house all the virtues that adorned his early family life. In undertaking to build his own home he soon took unto himself and married that charming young lady who later became the loving mother of lively but disciplined children.

I had the responsibility, only a few years ago, to assist this wonderful mother during her last merciful and cruel illness. At her bedside, I witnessed and admired her courage and heroic stamina.

With these powerful elements in your family background, coupled with your knowledge and experience of parliamentary procedure, you are, Sir, eminently fitted for the high honor and important post recently conferred upon you. We know that you will fulfill your obligations and discharge your duties with dignity and justice and that you will maintain in this house the tra-

ditions that call for decorum and order. I take great pleasure, therefore, in extending to you, Sir, my sincere and cordial congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to make a few remarks concerning the Hon. Premier. I am sure that on both sides of this assembly, regardless of the stormy weather we have been getting, I am sure that we are all proud of his political achievement and we are most thankful to the electorate of this province in having conferred upon him the responsibility of government.

May I modestly refer to my humble person, when I inform you, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier is responsible for my embarking on this political galley! This, of course, is not meant to be a bill of indictment laid against the Premier, but rather a friendly reference to my hesitant beginning in politics.

For 35 years I have been busily engaged, and with fair success, in my professional duties and other social activities. While I felt the burden of the years still light, I knew without too much concern that the best was over and that soon I would have to curtail my activities and join with the older group.

But one day, quite unexpectedly, I received the visit of this young, ambitious and dynamic Leader of the Liberal party then in opposition. He tried to convince me that I would add to my life span if I would follow him and undertake to help him win the forthcoming election.

I knew the hon. gentleman from his earlier years at Sacred Heart University. My oldest son was also a student at the same school and both were good friends. Occasionally they would travel together around the province and share each other's home. But my speech makes no reference as to who would pay the taxis!

Since those early days, through personal observation and inquiry about these young men's future, I had somewhat like a dim inkling — I found that word in my dictionary — that one day Louis Robichaud would be our Premier.

How could I, Sir, under such circumstances, refuse the prayerful invitation of such a wonderful young friend who probably knew, through past experience, the soft spots of my heart? With almost fatherly

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last when this government was sworn in. love I heeded to his plea and gladly gave him my wholehearted support.

Then, Mr. Speaker, with my two good friends and runningmates, Mr. John Alexander and Mr. Patrick Guerette, we waged in Restigouche a wholesome and clean political campaign — the greatest pleasure of all my life. And on both sides we remained great friends. The outcome was most gratifying and we are indeed grateful to our people of Restigouche for their support and for the honor of being their representatives in this house.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have followed a good suggestion and I am happy to be here. Indeed I have the impression of starting a new life, with renewed vigor, as though political activities had brought me the benefit of some magic rejuvenating hormones!

Mr. Speaker, I feel that I would be remiss in my duties if I would not thank the Hon. Premier for all these vital benefits. Of course, here I don't refer to the pecuniary advantage that one might expect in the full-time job that I now hold, but rather to the unselfish pride and satisfaction that one can reap as he carries on serving his fellowmen.

In all sincerity, therefore, Sir, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the Hon. Premier for having called on me to serve in the government as Minister of Health. After some seven months of experience now at the head of the Department of Health, I have had ample time to realize that the responsibilities undertaken measure very adequately to the honor of holding the office. The onus of the position is heavy enough to temper and curb down what might be the exalting spasms of the incumbent's ego! But be it as it may, I shall serve to the best of my ability — — —

Mr. JONAH: You must have swallowed that dictionary.

Hon. Mr. DUMONT: That's Cassell's English-French dictionary.

But be it as it may, I shall serve to the best of my ability and will continue to dedicate myself in loyalty and justice to the obligations of the office, ever mindful — and here I'm very serious — of the solemn oath taken here on the 12th of July

last when this government was sworn in.

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to pay homage and offer my sincere congratulations to all my colleagues in the government. My association with them is not only a charming experience but also most encouraging and helpful.

But taking a broader look about this house, whether it be to your right or to your left, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and convey my good wishes to all members. We know that Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is staffed by good and loyal citizens. Some of them held high office in the previous government, and to those former ministers of the Crown and to their associates, I pay my respects and wish them well.

I know that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has earned the esteem and trust of his followers and this, coupled with his past experience in government, should qualify him fully for the high office he now holds. I am pleased, Sir, to congratulate the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and wish him peace, happiness and continued good health.

Apparently, his health — and he has shown it tonight — is very good, but should it be faltering under the pressure of responsibilities, I know that the county of York and the city of Saint John would be honored in having at least three good M.L.A.'s quite able to provide adequate medical or surgical care to their congenial leader.

And should additional help be required, it goes without saying that from this side of the house the Minister of Health would be pleased to offer his loyal and unbiased suggestions and assistance.

Some time ago, Sir, I had the good fortune of being closely associated with the Hon. Hugh John Flemming, former Premier and now Minister of Forestry. I was attending and close by the Hon. Minister of Forestry as he was presiding at two ribbon-cutting ceremonies — and I was proud to be there — marking the opening of a federal building in the city of Campbellton and the inauguration of the new year-around opened wharf in the town of Dalhousie.

On each occasion Mr. Flemming had the delicate thoughtfulness of providing me with a small nib — I found that one in the dictionary too

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— of the ribbon as a token of the events. This small piece of ribbon bore in its texture much more the fragrance of friendship than what some onlookers might have thought to be an enticement for changing my political faith!

However, Mr. Speaker, we realize that the Hon. Hugh John Flemming is now holding a very important post in the federal government and we all hope that he will be able to cooperate with us and support our projects and policies. In so doing, he will intensify the growth of our economy and enhance the welfare of our people.

Now, if I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my constituents. Along with my fellow M.L.A.'s, Mr. John Alexander and Mr. Patrick Guerette, we are appreciative of the support they have given us. Our people of Restigouche County have certainly played their part during the last election. They are now most anxious to share in the expansion of our industries and the development of our forest, agricultural and fishing resources.

Of course, like in all areas across Canada and the United States, our people of Restigouche are not too happy with the critical unemployment situation. Let us hope that before long the Fraser Company will be successful in their endeavors to return the operation of their Atholville pulpmill to full-time capacity.

As to the New Brunswick International Paper Company, we know that for some time they had envisaged the possibility of speeding up the operation of their papermill at Dalhousie to an increased capacity. Unfortunately, due to scarcity of water or to the alleged high cost of power, we are now sorry to observe that the company have not been in a position to carry out their plans of expansion but rather had to curtail their operations.

This, of course, is a crippling blow to our economy and a cause of great concern when we all feel that it would be most desirable if we could take greater advantage and exploit more extensively the riches of our vast and immense forests.

My most earnest wish would be that our farmers would find more incentive and more compensation

while remaining on or returning to their farms. If the farmers could earn their daily bread and make a decent living on their farms, the unemployment situation would be solved to a great extent.

If the farmers on their own initiative could undertake to run their own agricultural business on paying basis with their family, instead of roaming around in search of non-existent or unavailable jobs, their condition would be much brighter and our people much happier. Of course, for this, available markets should be close at hand, because we are now living in times of keen competition.

I know that in the village of St. Quentin, near the home of our distinguished colleague, Mr. Patrick Guerette, the farmers are quite prosperous and happy. However, I am not too familiar with this complex problem, but I am confident that under the leadership of our Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Adrien Levesque, a close look will be given to this vital question and I hope that means will be devised to help solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to your attention the fact that our constituents are quite anxious to favor the tourist trade in this province.

You know that a new bridge known as the Campbellton-Cross Point Bridge now spans the Restigouche River. We all know that our former federal member for Restigouche-Madawaska has made his name famous in being so instrumental in obtaining this long sought for and awaited bridge. When completed and opened to traffic next summer, this bridge will not remain only as a lasting monument to the memory of our friend, Charlie Van-Horne, but will bring into our province an ever increasing flow of tourists.

Our constituents feel that it would be a most appropriate attraction which would enhance the natural beauty of our shores if we could before too long provide our tourists with a recreational park between Dalhousie and Campbellton. A wonderful attraction for tourists would also be our wonderful Sugar Loaf if it were made accessible right up to the top. Here without magnetic force or power and without any optical illusions, but solely for the natural beauty of the environment,

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tourist trade would be made prosperous and the undertaking would pay out and Campbellton would be known to the world.

Mr. Speaker, in this same line, but with still more emphasis I would like to point out how much our constituents and our citizens of Campbellton and Dalhousie are anxious to be provided with the facilities of an airport. We feel that the natural site for an airport to serve the interests of the people living in the northern part of the province as well as part of the Gaspé coast is in Restigouche County. I earnestly hope that such a project will soon be realized unless the northern part of the province is not to be given the chance of living apace with the citizens of central and southern New Brunswick. Surely before too long we should be given that privilege.

#### MESSAGE IN FRENCH

Monsieur l'Orateur, en voulant rendre hommage à la population de cette province en général et à l'élément français en particulier, qu'il me soit permis de la faire dans ma langue maternelle. Le Nouveau-Brunswick s'enrichit de l'apport de groupes ethniques qui se distinguent par la langue, les traditions et les coutumes, mais qui n'en sont pas moins unanimes à souhaiter le progrès de notre province et à y travailler ensemble dans l'harmonie et la bonne entente. C'est cet esprit de compréhension mutuelle qui doit présider à l'évolution de la nation canadienne.

Par coïncidence — chose assez significative — je me trouve à partager la même banquette avec mon collègue des Terres et Mines, l'Honorable Graham Crocker. Par conséquent, ici, à ce pupitre, se trouvent représentés, à côté l'un de l'autre, nos deux comtés respectifs. Ici, Restigouche, là, Northumberland! Ici, Campbellton, là, Rogersville! Or pour moi, M. l'Orateur, ces deux comtés et ces deux localités me possèdent tout entier et résument toute ma vie.

Depuis ma tendre enfance et pendant près de 20 ans, c'est à Rogersville que j'ai vécu avec ma famille. C'est là que j'ai pris connaissance à la vie et je garde de ce village des souvenirs de jeunesse et d'en-

thousiasme toujours bien vivaces et bien chers.

Mon âme s'émeut encore en évoquant le souvenir d'un Mgr. François-Marcel Richard dont la figure imposante domine toute ma vie. J'avais 17 ans quand ce grand chêne de l'Acadie renaissante, miné par la maladie et l'épreuve, mais toujours confiant dans l'avenir, s'étendit pour ne plus se relever! Soldat du Christ, apôtre intrépide et infatigable, bienfaiteur insigne de son peuple, le "Père de l'Acadie" décédait à l'été de 1915. Sa belle âme retournait à sa récompense, mais son souvenir devait demeurer à jamais glorieux dans les pages de notre histoire acadienne.

M. l'Orateur, de ce grand chef, j'ai appris et conservé une leçon de vie qui m'impressionne encore et à laquelle je crois toujours. Cette leçon c'est que "les Acadiens sont ici parce qu'ils ont une mission à remplir sur cette terre sanctifiée par l'héroïsme de leurs pères."

M. l'Orateur, après Rogersville, ce fut Campbellton où j'arrivais comme jeune médecin en 1925. Depuis 35 ans, c'est à Campbellton que j'ai vécu et c'est là que, jusqu'à ce jour de Fredericton, se sont déployées toutes mes activités.

Campbellton, c'est ce site enchanteur que vous connaissez bien, avec ce somptueux Pain de Sucre, cette incomparable rivière Restigouche qui serpente majestueusement une vallée où la nature s'est plu à y dérouler les plus beaux panoramas du monde, et où vit en parfaite harmonie une population saine et laborieuse mais qui voudrait être plus prospère. Campbellton, c'est cette petite cité de Restigouche, une vraie perle naturelle, qui avec Dalhousie et les villages avoisinants, contribue largement à la beauté de notre province.

M. l'Orateur, en arrivant à Campbellton, j'ai été fortement impressionné, subjugué et conquis par un autre de nos grands chefs acadiens dont je garde pieusement l'impérissable souvenir. Je lui dois d'avoir compris et accepté ma vocation sociale. Sans lui, je crois bien que je n'aurais jamais fait un discours en public et je ne serais pas ici. Très discrètement et à sa manière un peu enjouée et aimable, alors que je lui apportais quelques petits services thérapeutiques, je devins son élève.

Depuis ce moment et jusqu'à la fin de sa vie, il m'honora de sa

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grande amitié et je pus connaître les grandes aspirations et subir l'influence de sa belle et grande âme d'apôtre. Un jour, à l'automne de 1941, et c'est avec émotion que je rappelle ce souvenir, j'eus l'honneur et le pénible devoir de l'assister pendant sa dernière et cruelle maladie et de lui fermer les yeux.

M. l'Orateur, cet autre grand, d'abord de Balmoral, de Campbellton, puis de Gravelbourg et de Moncton, cet autre "Apôtre de l'Acadie", c'est le regretté Mgr. Arthur Melanson, premier Archevêque de Moncton. C'est lui, qui me fit comprendre que tout homme avait une mission sociale à remplir, en plus et en marge des devoirs particuliers de son état ou de sa profession. C'est depuis ce jour que je crois vraiment que l'action politique est un devoir social et c'est pourquoi j'ai ici l'honneur de représenter, avec mes dignes collègues, M. John Alexander et M. Pat Guérette, le beau comté de Restigouche.

M. l'Orateur, en évoquant le souvenir de ces deux grands serviteurs de l'Acadie, c'est à toute la population française du Nouveau-Brunswick que je veux rendre hommage. Avec eux et par eux, dans mon esprit, et avec reconnaissance, je veux rejoindre et acclamer tous nos chefs de file actuels et passés — et ils sont nombreux — qui ont travaillé dans le même sens. A ces hommes, j'associe également toutes nos institutions et toutes nos oeuvres sans les nommer, mais songeant à toutes, qui témoignent devant Dieu et devant les hommes, de l'intensité de notre vie montante.

M. l'Orateur, les Acadiens et la population française du Nouveau-Brunswick ont toujours travaillé intensément à l'amélioration de leur sort culturel et économique. Avec la richesse de notre culture française, de notre "folklore" et de nos traditions, nous savons bien que nous apportons à notre province une précieuse contribution. Dans une grande mesure, croyons-nous, cette contribution augmente le prestige de la nation Canadienne, en assure ses caractères distinctifs et appréciés, dont nos compatriotes anglais ne voudraient plus se passer.

#### ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to use my mother tongue to pay a tri-

bute to the people of New Brunswick as a whole and to the French-speaking element in particular. Various ethnic groups bring a valued contribution to the enrichment of our province and while they differ in language, traditions and customs, they are nonetheless unanimous in their desire to enhance the progress of the province by working together in harmony and goodwill. This spirit of mutual understanding is at the very basis of the development of the Canadian nation.

Sir, it is by a rather interesting coincidence that I find myself sharing a desk with my colleague the Minister of Lands and Mines, the Hon. Graham Crocker. Here at this desk, side by side, our two counties are represented — Restigouche on the one hand and Northumberland on the other. In the former — Campbellton, in the latter — Rogersville! Mr. Speaker, these two counties and these two localities sum up my whole life.

Beginning with early childhood and during most of 20 years I lived with our family in Rogersville. It was there that I started in life and my memories of this village remain very vivid and very dear to me.

It is with emotion that I recall the memory of Mgr. Francois-Marcel Richard whose imposing stature has been present through my whole life. I was 17 years old when this man of great strength in Acadian revival, gradually weakened by illness and difficulties, was finally laid to rest. A militant Christian, courages and untiring in his apostolate, and an outstanding benefactor of his people, this "Father of Acadia" passed away in the summer of 1915. He has gone to his reward but his glorious memory was to be forever inscribed in the pages of Acadian history.

Mr. Speaker, I received from this great leader a lesson in life which I have never forgotten. It was that the "Acadians are here to fulfill a mission in this land sanctified by the heroism of their forefathers."

Mr. Speaker, having left Rogersville I settled in Campbellton as a young doctor in 1925. I have lived in Campbellton for the last 35 years and, until my coming to Fredericton, it was there that my activities were concentrated.

Campbellton is located on the enchanting site that you know well, with its magnificent Sugar Loaf, the unequalled Restigouche River wind-

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ing majestically through a valley which nature has endowed with the world's most beautiful panoramas and where sound and industrious people live in perfect harmony, hoping, however, for a greater share of prosperity! The small city of Campbellton in Restigouche is one of nature's gems and, along with Dalhousie and the surrounding communities, adds much to the beauties of our province.

Mr. Speaker, when I arrived in Campbellton I was exceedingly impressed, captivated and won over by another of our great Acadian leaders, one whose memory I forever cherish with the greatest reverence. I was influenced by him in visualizing and carrying out the part which I have played in society. Without his influence, perhaps I would never have taken my place in our public forums and I might not even be here today. As I attended to some of his medical needs, his discreet and friendly persuasion made me one of his followers.

For as long as he lived I had the privilege and honor of being his close friend and to discover the great and noble ideals of which his great soul was inspired. I recall with deep emotion that day in the fall of 1941 when I had the honor and the sorrow of being in attendance during the final attack of his cruel illness.

Mr. Speaker, this other great leader whose activity was exercised first at Balmoral, then at Campbellton, Gravelbourg and Moncton, this great Acadian was Mgr. Arthur Melanson, first Archbishop of Moncton. He made me understand that every man has a role to play in society in addition to the duties of his particular calling or profession. I became convinced that participation in public affairs is a duty in our society. And that is why I am here today, having the privilege to represent the beautiful county of Restigouche along with my able colleagues, Mr. John Alexander and Mr. Patrick Guérette.

Mr. Speaker, as I pay a tribute to the memory of these two great artisans of Acadian development, I am paying a tribute also to the entire French-speaking population of New Brunswick. Through them I recall with gratitude and acclaim all our leaders past and present — and

there are many — whose activity has been along the same lines. To these great men I associate all our institutions and our undertakings, which are too numerous to mention, as a testimony before God and before man of our increasing vitality.

Mr. Speaker, the Acadians and the French-speaking population of New Brunswick have never ceased to work actively toward cultural and economic betterment. With the richness of our French culture, of our folklore and of our traditions, we are aware that we bring a valuable contribution to our province. We feel that this contribution serves in no small way to enhance the prestige of the Canadian nation by those distinctive elements which, we believe, are appreciated by our English-speaking compatriots to the point where they would not wish to have it otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of those who will be able to read that nice speech in the Synoptic. I hired a good translator, he has perfect English.

Mr. Speaker, may I once more refer to the city of Campbellton. I am sure my distinguished co-members for Restigouche and our constituents were rejoiced and deeply honored when they heard the results of the New Brunswick Ganong Cup bonspiel. Very recently the citizens of Campbellton were grieved over the loss of their curling rink when fire left it gutted and totally ruined.

However, since that sad event a great honor shines over the northern shores of New Brunswick and the city of Campbellton takes pride over the recent victory of the John MacDonald's squad winning this much coveted Province of New Brunswick Ganong Trophy.

I take great pleasure, Sir, in extending our heartiest congratulations to this valiant rink headed by John MacDonald, skip; Jack Cummins, mate; Reg Murphy, second stone, and Guy Marcoux, lead.

We thank them for the honor they have brought us and we wish them success when they will represent New Brunswick this month at the Canadian bonspiel, the MacDonald Brier, in Calgary.

Mr. Speaker, New Brunswick, among other things, has the distinction of being the first province in the British Commonwealth to establish a Department of Health.

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I am proud to remind you, Sir, that this was initiated by a Liberal government in 1918 under the late Premier Walter Foster. The first man to hold the office was the late Hon. Dr. William F. Roberts who served as Minister of Health from 1918 to 1925 and again later from 1935 to 1938.

On the walls of my office are hung, as though in brilliant battle array, the pictures of my distinguished predecessors. They are for me an inspiration and I hold them in respect for the wonderful contribution and service they have rendered our province.

I have been told, Sir, that the eighth picture to join the gallery and improve the collection will be my own picture, in some 20 years when this government, still young, might find me on the verge of aging. But it is noteworthy to recall that it was again under a Liberal government, when the Hon. Senator F. A. McGrand was Minister of Health, that this department did really develop to its actual magnitude and unfolded its services in so many divisions for the benefit of our people.

I would like at this time, Sir, to refer to a man who has had the distinction in our department of having served under every Minister of Health this province ever had. He has identified himself with his work and has dedicated his whole professional life to public health. This man is Dr. J. Arthur Melanson, who began his career in 1928 as a tuberculosis diagnostician.

Later he became a district medical health officer and now since 1945 holds the high office of chief medical officer. Twice in his lifetime he crossed the seas and took active service in both world wars and served with honor and distinction the great cause of freedom and liberty.

Shortly after the end of World War Two, Lieut.-Col. J. Arthur Melanson returned home and soon resumed his duties with the Department of Health when he was appointed chief medical officer.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for this occasion when I can pay tribute to Dr. Melanson, a personal friend, so highly qualified and regarded. I can assure you, Sir, that my initiation and my task as a new minister have been made easy and

pleasant with such a congenial and loyal counsellor.

In the same breath of appreciation, I take pleasure to mention all the officials and employees of our different divisions and I thank one and all for their courtesy and co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to touch on all the points mentioned in the speech from the throne and I wish to refer chiefly to those matters relating to my department and government policy regarding hospital services.

It is, however, fitting at this time to extend congratulations also to my young colleague, Hon. William (Bill) Duffie, on his assuming office as the province's first Minister of Youth and Welfare. The youth conference held recently in Fredericton provided many interesting suggestions as to the work to be carried out by the new department. I am sure that under Mr. Duffie's able direction the province's youth program will indeed benefit all our young people, fulfilling a solemn promise made by the Liberal party to the voters of our province.

The new department has also assumed responsibility for administering what was formerly the Social Services Branch of the Department of Health and Social Services. With the transferring of the hospital services plan under the direct jurisdiction of the Department of Health, this was a welcome move resulting in a more balanced distribution of ministerial and departmental duties.

The Minister of Health will now be concerned directly with health matters only and I think this is proper in the light of increasing responsibilities in all fields of public health.

Mr. Speaker, our major campaign pledge was the removal of the premium tax for hospital care. A few days after assuming office, the Liberal government honored this promise and further taxation by way of premiums was abolished.

We contend and we know that this measure was greeted with a sigh of relief by the many families who could ill afford to pay \$50 a year — practically \$1 a week — under the compulsory system put into effect by our friends opposite.

The Liberal government contend that a government-sponsored hospital plan, like education or any other public service, must first and

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foremost be available to all residents without distinction or discrimination. Such a plan should not be a cause of financial worry and embarrassment to the very people who need most to benefit from it, namely those in the lower income bracket or without a regular source of livelihood.

The Liberal government's policy regarding hospital care is based on the principle that no resident should be called upon to pay a tax which has no regard for his level of income or ability to pay. We realize that for a sizeable number of residents the sum of \$50 a year did not present any hardship. However, for many families there was real difficulty and a constant threat, because premiums had to be paid well in advance and late payment resulted in the loss of hospital insurance coverage, perhaps at the moment when it was needed the most.

We have given hospital care to all our residents regardless of their means. That was our purpose and we have carried it out. Premium revenue amounting to \$7 or \$8 million a year was thus removed and we do not suggest that it is easy to finance the hospital plan from regular provincial revenue.

We do state, however, that our method is the only fair way and the only one which is fully acceptable in our form of democratic government. This is where Liberal philosophy differs from that of our friends opposite. I would not even suggest that theirs was sound Conservative policy in the light of what Premier Stanfield of Nova Scotia once said in condemning the premium system for his province, which resembles ours in so many ways.

As I have stated, we tackled the task of removing the premium immediately upon assuming office. Some of our residents, namely those who had paid regularly by payroll deductions, had already remitted premiums for 1961 charged from their pay in June and in some cases in July last year. We reimbursed those payments in the amount of approximately \$260,000 to some 70,000 employees. No premium was charged beyond what had been required to be paid in advance by May 31, 1960, under the former administration.

Mr. Speaker, we do recognize the gigantic task accomplished by the former government and the Hospital Services Commission in establishing the hospital care insurance plan. True, we did not agree with the premium tax and we were pledged to remove it, but I can say in all sincerity that much valuable work was done. The members of the Hospital Services Commission and commission officials rendered most valuable service to the province.

I wish to pay a particular tribute to my predecessor, the former Minister of Health and acting chairman of the Hospital Services Commission. I know that he devoted several years to the planning and implementing of the hospital care plan. I have had occasion to become aware of the amount of work that he put into this task and I am convinced that few men in public life have given so generously of their time and effort to a single undertaking.

To the other members of the Commission — Mr. Laurence Black of Sackville, Mr. L. Lockhart of Moncton, Rev. Mother Saint-Georges, Dr. F. C. Jennings and Mr. Richard Shiels of Saint John — I wish to express the appreciation of the government for the contribution which they have made, as well as to the chief medical officer who was an ex-officio member of the Commission. They are a devoted group of outstanding citizens and they have served in an exceptional way.

I would likewise express the government's appreciation to the executive director of the Hospital Services Commission, Doctor D. A. Van Binnendyk. His vast knowledge of hospital affairs and his sound advice and counsel have been most beneficial to me since I have assumed office.

He has chosen not to remain with the department under the new plan of administration. I regret his decision and I wish to state publicly that if he goes it is not because I wished this. He has served so well; we were close friends, and I'm sorry to see him leave us, but that's his own decision.

He is leaving the province held in very high esteem both as a member of the medical profession and an outstanding authority in hospital affairs.

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The members of the interim committee on hospital insurance, which preceded the Hospital Services Commission, also deserve to be commended for their part in the studies which were made prior to the establishment of the hospital care plan. I am referring to Mr. B. R. Guss, Q.C., Dr. Carl R. Trask, Rev. Mother Saint-Georges, Mr. D. O. Downing, Mr. William McNichol, Dr. Charles Kelly and Mr. R. T. Bennett. It is only fair that credit be given where credit is due.

At the session of the Legislature held last fall a bill was passed substituting the Hospital Services Act for the Hospital Care Insurance Act. The Public Hospitals Act was amended. The enactments were to go into effect on a date to be fixed by proclamation and it can now be announced that they will come into force on April 1 next.

At that time, the administration of the hospital services plan will become a division of the Department of Health known as the Hospital Services Division, responsible to the chief medical officer and to the Minister of Health. The Hospital Services Commission will cease to exist and the new division will be staffed by the permanent officials now in the Commission's employ.

We have no quarrel with the previous government who saw fit to adopt a commission form of administration and, as I remarked a moment ago, much was accomplished under that system. However, with the abolition of the premium system and the new method of financing, the administration of the hospital services plan is considerably different from what existed previously.

The government is of the opinion that the plan could perhaps be administered efficiently in several different ways. This is a matter of policy and we have chosen a form of administration which is in line with the time proven method used in most other fields of government endeavor.

It is the intention to continue to consult the medical profession. The hospitals and the New Brunswick Hospital Association will be consulted and informed regarding all phases of development of the plan. The problems of individual hospitals will be given a sympathetic hearing. To that effect an advisory

board will be appointed in the near future to protect the interests of the public, of the medical profession and of the hospitals, and the appeal board already appointed will be maintained.

The provision of hospital care and the costs involved are one of the major problems facing all provinces today. The addition of hospital beds is the solution to part of the problem where existing facilities are inadequate.

Hospital construction now underway, about to start or approved, total approximately 450 beds and will increase the bed capacity of the province's active treatment general hospitals to approximately 3,650 beds. Provincial and federal matching grants for hospital construction total \$4,000 per bed, but the major part of the financing has to be provided locally.

Approval of hospital construction and expansion by the Hospital Services Commission has been according to needs and the areas where the hospital bed distribution is inadequate have been given priority for hospital construction grants. This will be a continuing policy.

However, Mr. Speaker, the construction of new hospital beds is only part of the solution to the problems of adequate patient care in the light of steadily rising costs. Our active treatment hospitals are generally filled to capacity and in a number of instances there are waiting lists of patients to be admitted.

On the other hand, it is felt that some of the patients now occupying active treatment beds could be cared for in keeping with their medical needs in institutions or homes for the chronically ill and homes for the aged. The government is planning a concerted attack on this problem, realizing that adequate care and facilities in such homes or institutions would be more economical.

Just recently a committee composed of representatives of the Department of Health and the hospital services plan, the Department of Youth and Welfare, the Department of Municipal Affairs, the New Brunswick Hospital Association and the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities was formed to investigate all aspects of care for the chronically ill and custodial care for the aged.

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It is noted that much can be done under the new Social Assistance Act to help solve this problem. Also, ways may be devised by cooperation between the provincial government, municipalities and possibly other agencies for the construction of chronic and custodial care facilities.

Our hospital services plan has relieved municipalities of the financial burden of hospital care for indigents. The Social Assistance Act is making new funds available to municipalities. The problems of providing care for chronic and aged patients will be studied fully and, if necessary, the legislation will be changed or added to in order to carry out whatever program will be judged appropriate.

The problem of hospital care is a complex one indeed. There is no simple solution and long-range planning and development must be undertaken. Costs are, of course, the one major factor requiring careful scrutiny at all times.

The cost of operating an active treatment hospital bed for a year in New Brunswick is about \$6,000 exclusive of equipment and capital costs. The joint cost of the plan to the provincial and federal governments for the year 1961 are expected to exceed \$20,000,000.

Before closing my remarks regarding the hospital services plan, I would like to refer to the people who are responsible for the operation of this great program on a day-to-day basis, namely our hospital boards, administrators, nurses and all other groups of hospital workers. Without their constant cooperation the success of the plan would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, closely connected with our hospital services plan, I would like at this time to refer briefly to an announcement already made in the newspapers in the matter of the ever-bewildering problem of cancer control.

For some years now the Department of Health of this province has provided to our cancer patients some valuable services. The organization included five out-patient cancer clinics in the province for diagnostic services and three out-patient radiotherapy hospital centers at Saint John, Moncton and Fredericton.

The costs of these services were shared by provincial and federal governments on a matching basis under national health grants. But now since the hospital costs for hospitalized cancer patients are included under the hospital services plan, this allows us to extend our cancer control program.

After serious consideration of the matter and after consultation with the medical profession, I am now in a position to announce that, as of the first of March, our cancer control program will be extended to cover medical and surgical fees for hospital in-patients — in-patients, that must be underlined — being treated for any proven case of cancer.

This means that, as of now, New Brunswick residents stricken with cancer are assured of hospital, medical and surgical care without charge. The patient or the families afflicted with cancer are now relieved of any financial burden associated with cancer treatment. All proven cancer patients are now assured of the necessary treatment and in many cases earlier treatment will result. Early detection and treatment are of utmost importance in cancer control. The cost of this new service will, as before, be borne by the cancer control grant.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that this extension of cancer control services will be well received by every resident of the province of New Brunswick.

I left the spicy stuff for the last.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other matters referred to in the speech from the throne to which I could call your attention and on which I could make further remarks. However, Sir, I feel that I should be modest enough and not exhaust myself in this inaugural oratorical effort! But before taking my seat I should like to give kindly advice to our friends opposite.

A few days ago, without having had the chance of reading it, the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition allowed himself commenting on the Premier's recent Toronto address and from the little he knew of it he went on openly in the press blaming the Liberals for New Brunswick's "ills".

Well, Mr. Speaker, I submit that this is a very unwise, illogical and unfair way of doing for a man holding such a responsible position as

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that held by a political leader. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition went so far as suggesting — and I quote what I read in the paper — that “this government should admit failure of dealing properly with their province's affairs and should go to the people for a verdict”.

This statement, Sir, I contend is to me just childish talk as though bursting from the lips of a sulking and ill-humored young playmate!

Well, Sir, we admit that there are great ills the world over and our fair province has to contend with its share. We know that there is unemployment here as all over the continent, but we don't believe that we are responsible for this sad state of affairs.

We inherited the illness from the previous administration and quite frankly, we admit that, as we took office, empty coffers and over-expanded budgets left us in a rather precarious and disabled condition to cope with the situation.

However, we were looking hopefully towards Ottawa for good news and for remedial measures. I've come in too late, as you will see! This third sitting of the federal-provincial conference just held, might have brought us the cheering news and the assurance that the Tories in Ottawa had found the radical cure for the alarming unemployment situation which confronts us as our chief concern. But instead of a nostrum that would allay this sad social unrest, the news from Ottawa, we all know now, is rather sad and gloomy. And to use the words of the Saint John Telegraph-Journal:

“the financial offer is unfair, completely unacceptable and gives our Province the poorest deal of any of the Atlantic Provinces.”

Would it not appear that this discriminatory formula has been introduced to pay the return match of last June's election? And would it not serve the purpose of forcing our people after all to pay a rather expensive hospital premium tax?

And that was the only little bit of spice I had!

As to this government, we feel — and I beg your indulgence for it — we feel it is a bit premature to seek at this early stage of the game a renewal of our mandate. But there

is solace to our friends opposite in that they will before too long have the occasion to sense the people's verdict when the forthcoming by-elections are called.

Mr. BROOKS: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. DUMONT: In the meantime, Sir, I might say that since the short time we have taken office we barely had time to clean the backyard of the institution confided to our trust since the election. We are now just starting to see through the mess we were left with when we took over — we actually had to borrow some \$25,000,000. We would never have borrowed money — we had money in the bank in the budget! I tried my best but we were in the red at the Commission — 4.7 million in the red — and still we kept on, we kept going. But the banks were very kind to us. We are now just starting to see through the mess we were left in when we took over.

We are now busily engaged in the process of mopping and putting order in the interior of the whole edifice. We are not tired, Sir, and we feel quite young and strong enough, God willing, to carry the load and do the operation. We feel sure that the story is far from being despairing and we know that we hold much in store for our people as we continue unfolding our forward and progressive program.

We are just starting, delayed as we have been in putting order in the place, but we feel that there is no reason for losing heart.

I therefore close my remarks with this optimistic note and strongly advise our friends opposite to bear with us and to be patient and hopeful. It is not healthy for them to be too tense, this being harmful to the circulatory system, but let them relax and breathe freely.

Gloom is always likely to breed despair and is not healthy for any party. Let us, therefore, be of good cheer and hopeful. Let us join our efforts in friendly cooperation for the common good of our people!

Mr. Speaker, under the guidance and leadership of an able and dynamic Premier, with the cooperation and goodwill of all concerned and with the help of Providence, I submit, Sir, that this day and for many years ahead, this province is blessed with a good government.

Mr. McILVEEN continued the debate, saying:

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Mr. Speaker:

I agree with the Hon. the Minister of Health that it is never too late to make a maiden speech. We agree the hour is late, in fact, it is already tomorrow. I have changed the date on this twice already.

I would like at the outset, though, to extend my very good congratulations to the Hon. Minister for his fine and humorous address and I am sure it has been a tonic to us on this long and sometimes less humorous day. I can assure you, Sir, that I will not be too long.

Mr. Speaker, in rising for the first time to take part in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the high and honored position of Speaker in this legislative assembly.

I have been greatly impressed with your detailed knowledge and fair rulings on our proceedings, which can at times become quite heated and controversial, which I am sure has been proven no later than today — yesterday, I guess.

I would also like at this time to extend my congratulations to Premier Louis Robichaud on his election last summer to head the government of our province. I hope he will work faithfully and hard for the good of our whole province.

To Mr. Cyril Sherwood, our Leader, I extend my personal congratulations and full support in all matters pertaining to the duties of a good, alert and aggressive opposition.

As I stand here today, I am fully conscious of the responsibility placed in me by my constituents and will do my best to see that their interests are well represented in our government.

Mr. Speaker, in speaking for the first time as a member from Saint John County, I would like to say that I am very proud and honored to have been elected to represent our people.

As is generally known, Saint John County, both East and West, is one of the fastest growing industrial areas in Canada and will certainly be the industrial heart of New Brunswick. This very fact, Mr. Speaker, means that already considerable interests are involved; large amounts of capital invested,

not merely by one company, but by a number of companies.

We in Saint John County are pleased to see the expansion program that is presently being carried out by the Saint John Shipbuilding and Dry Dock interests. This will mean much in increased employment and the purchase of supplies, not only to our area but to the whole province.

However, we have other enterprises in our county at present, and also others who are interested and have indicated a desire to settle there.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all members present in this house cannot but agree that much credit is due to our industrial expansion, both at present and in the future, to the progressive power development program initiated by the previous Progressive Conservative government.

For the information and clarification of many of our members, I would like to point out the unusual geographical layout of Saint John County: —

The county is a long narrow area extending from Albert County on the eastern end to Charlotte County on the western end, a distance of some 65 miles. It is bounded on the north by Kings County. However, here is the unusual part, almost mid-distant in its length the area of the city of Saint John is located, thus dividing our county into two distinct parcels — the eastern half comprising the parish of Simonds and the parish of St. Martins, with a population of some 16,000 - 17,000, and the western half comprising the city and parish of Lancaster and the parish of Musquash, with a population of some 17,000 to 18,000.

For easier and more direct representation it has become an unwritten law that of the two members we are allotted, one will be from the east and the other from the west.

At the present time my colleague, Mr. Parker Mitchell, is elected from the west and myself from the east. However, we both represent the whole county from east to west and are greatly interested in its welfare.

During the past 10 years our county population has increased by some 5,000 people. Our school popu-