

of what the Prime Minister said, when tomorrow honourable senators will have the opportunity.

I refer to what he said only to indicate that, in addition to what I have said tonight about what we believe to be the success thus far of some of our efforts, the Government continues to give the matter in an over-all way much more fundamental concern and approach than some are prepared to recognize the Government is doing.

I have thought in reply to my honourable friend that I should address myself essentially to this problem, because it was the basis of much of his complaint. It is basic today all over this country. The Government of the country is therefore obliged to give the fullest consideration to ways and means of dealing with this problem. The Government can only do so much within the limit of its constitutional power. But private sector has a great responsibility, and so has labour.

My honourable friend said, if I understood him right, that inflation was caused by an undue rise in wages. Well, surely inflation is caused by this, but also by other undue rises in other areas of the economy. All sectors of the community must accept their responsibility in a voluntary way through voluntary restraints, if the federal Government within the ambit of its constitutional power is going to deal successfully with this problem.

In the Speech from the Throne the Government did, of course, stray from the traditional pattern of similar speeches. There was an annex to the speech which indicated the Government's legislative program. There was also in the annex a list of the legislative program passed in the other place and in the Senate during the course of the last session of Parliament. It is true, as Senator Choquette said, that much of this program comprised hang-over legislation—bits of legislation left over from the previous regime. I may say that some of these bits of legislation were hang-overs from the administration before that.

The House of Commons has revised some of its procedures and it is hoped that it will be able to dispatch its business in a way that will not permit a repetition of such a long time being taken in the implementation of the legislative program. But let there be no mistake that in this present Speech from the Throne, philosophical as it may be, in part, general as its phrases may seem to be, there is a clear plan and a clear design and purpose. This Government is planning its work; it is planning its work carefully; and the

evidence of that planning will in the course of the next few months be unfolded in a way which, I trust, will satisfy even my genial friend Senator Choquette.

An Hon. Senator: Never.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Someone says never. I do not possess that kind of pessimism. I have convinced Senator Choquette before and I am sure that I can convince him even in this difficult area.

The Speech from the Throne speaks of the international situation; it speaks of our concern in the Arctic archipelago; it speaks of the development of international law; it speaks of what we are seeking to do at the United Nations to strengthen that organization; it speaks of national unity. It mentions with pride the legislative accomplishment last session of the language bill. That is now a legislative fact. The Government is presently engaged in further discussions with the provinces, designed to implement that bill and to implement some of the recommendations of the B. and B. Report.

The problem of national unity continues to be one of our foremost problems together with that of economic disparity and inflation. These are pre-eminent among the problems that face not only the Government but also Parliament and the people of the country.

Senator Choquette mentioned at the outset that I seem to be fitting into the pattern and the traditions of this chamber. I thank him for that. But if that is the case, it is largely because I have had co-operation not only from those who sit on this side but from those who sit opposite. I am sure that Senator Choquette is right in saying that this chamber, this institution, the subject of much abuse almost from the time of its establishment, serves a good purpose in our parliamentary system. I am sure that we would not be true to the Fathers of Confederation and to the purpose of that arrangement if we were to undo one of the necessary conditions which brought this house into being, largely at the insistence of the Atlantic Provinces and the Province of Quebec.

Our job now is to make ourselves more useful. The criticisms levelled at the Senate are oftentimes made in the context of a criticism directed against Parliament itself; the charge being that Parliament is meaningless, that Parliament is irrelevant in the modern day. Those of us who are in Parliament in one or other of the houses cannot ignore that