

The Address—Mr. Pearson

I can understand the desire of hon. gentlemen opposite to wait. Perhaps they are delaying for the same reason as inspired Right Hon. R. B. Bennett to put off his fate until the last moment in 1935. Of course, we must remember that the Prime Minister has always placed great faith in the healing virtues of delay, as in the camouflaging magic of confusion. We on this side believe that an election should be held—that the people of this country should be given a chance to express themselves at the earliest possible date. It should be an election with the full and detailed government program placed before the people, together with a detailed national accounting, so that they would know what has been going on in the country in recent years in order that the people can decide in the light of all the facts. The sooner that comes about in the conditions I have mentioned the better for Canada, though, of course, the worse for this government.

Let me say a few words about the speech from the throne itself. It is not a very ambitious document but I do not intend on this occasion to try to deal with all the references contained in it. My colleagues will deal with some of the proposals and some of the ideas, and I shall not attempt to cover the whole field today.

As far as international affairs are concerned there is nothing in the speech from the throne, except a few platitudinous sentences, to describe the sombre and, indeed, the dangerous situation which we face in the world. No ideas are put forward concerning ways in which we might meet these dangers and solve these problems except in a general and unimpressive way. There is no recognition of the fact that the menace of communist imperialism and colonialism is as great as ever—perhaps, in some respects, greater than ever. I think we are particularly conscious of that menace today as I speak on the forty fourth anniversary of the establishment of the independent republic of the Ukraine, the short lived and tragic history of which we all know. That history surely brings home to us that while overseas colonialism and imperialism of the older type is on the way out and has almost disappeared, the kind of colonialism which imperialistic communist powers impose by moving across adjacent borders to destroy ancient civilizations and subjugate their populations is stronger and more menacing than ever. It is not likely there will be real peace in the world—creative and constructive peace—until that type of colonialism is removed, too. I have no doubt that when the time comes we shall have a full debate on international affairs at which time we shall be able to examine why, among other things, Canada's

[Mr. Pearson.]

influence in these matters has declined rather than increased in the last four or five years.

Mr. Green: That is a foolish statement.

Mr. Pearson: If it is a foolish statement, as is stated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green), may I say that it is being made by many objective observers of international matters today.

I am also very conscious of the fact that in dealing with the program in the speech from the throne I cannot be sure that I am dealing with the full government program or all the government proposals, owing to the fact that the Prime Minister has introduced into our constitution a new convention—and it is a very dubious one indeed—of making his own speech from the throne after the official one has been handed down and of including in that political speech of his own things which he thinks will perhaps get more credit for himself and for his party, as coming from him, than from any more exalted or objective source. He has done it more than once and for all I know he may be doing it today. That situation makes it difficult to introduce a debate on the speech from the throne when we do not know whether or not we have the full government program outlined in that speech.

However, as we have the program outlined in that speech, its declarations contain no call to national action; they make no challenge for a national response. They do not even seem to call for an early election.

On January 20 the *Globe and Mail*, a paper certainly not friendly to this party but traditionally very friendly indeed to the government, referred to the speech from the throne in an editorial entitled "An Uncertain Trumpet" as one with a "curiously thin and inadequate note". What an unhappy contrast, in content, inspiration and challenge, to President Kennedy's state of the union message a few days earlier.

One commentator has likened the program in it to a budget with the dollar sign thrown away completely, and this at a time when this year's budgetary deficit is likely to be \$700 million or more, when our cash deficit is likely to be well over \$1 billion and when we are told by the government that this is a time of expansion and moving forward. If the dollar sign is to be thrown away completely, as this prediction has it, I wonder whether the cheque writing machines are now ready for overtime work.

In this connection, Mr. Speaker, we recall the words of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton). I am sorry that he is not in his place today and I regret even more the reason for his absence. I know that he is ill.