

The Address—Mr. Scott

to ensure that we are training and educating people for jobs that are going to be there when they graduate, not jobs that we hope will be there.

It is not enough to talk about retraining because all the experts say that retraining alone cannot do the job. In California there were 50,000 eligible for retraining; 38 took the course and 26 passed. In my own city of Toronto, fewer than 4 per cent are being trained, and only 50 per cent of those who start the course actually finish it.

Our Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp) is promoting exports. This alone will not solve the problem if products being exported are manufactured by machines, there will not be the jobs available, and you cannot plan expansion on a purely export program. We must begin to indulge in economic planning in this country. All the experts in the United States, no matter what their political beliefs, have come to the conclusion that the solution of the problem of automation inevitably means a wide degree of government planning, government control and government direction. They realize this may be on a scale that is not politically acceptable, but that has not prevented them from making these strong representations.

In my own belief, even if there had never been a case for Canadian economic planning, science and technology have made that course imperative. In the years ahead, unless we are prepared to make the necessary long term planning which technological change requires, unless we are prepared to make the economy grow as we want it to grow, rather than spawn on its own, we shall be in trouble. We must endeavour to bring in new ideas and conceptions and throw out some of the shibboleths we have practised in the past. If we do not do this, then there is no hope of solving the problems of science and new technology in the 1960's and 1970's. That is why we in the N.D.P. have urged the whole concept of economic planning because without it there is no way to meet the challenge that lies ahead. If we do not do this now, then we are letting down the generations that will follow. The responsibility for meeting this challenge rests with people like ourselves, in conjunction with the provinces.

Time is short; the challenge is great. We are not going to have years to make these changes. We must begin now to assess the economy and chart the course for the years ahead. That is why I hope the government will seriously consider setting up a foundation on automation. There may be one set up in Ontario and some of the other provinces, but unless such a foundation begins to study now, unless massive funds are made available for research, we cannot even pinpoint the prob-

[Mr. Scott.]

lem much less suggest the solution. We therefore suggest this action as urgently and strongly as we can to the government.

[*Translation*]

Mr. René Émard (Vaudreuil-Soulanges): Mr. Speaker, in general, the speech from the throne is a good indication of the progressive leadership that the government wants to give to the social and economic policy of Canada. It is very seldom that so much is said in so few words. Indeed, even though the speech set a record by its conciseness, it is so substantial that a long and fruitful session is generally expected.

There is an item in the speech from the throne that pleases me particularly. It is the announcement that a measure will be placed before the house to provide for a department of rural development, in order that the government may carry further its policy of giving increased attention to the needs of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada. In that same paragraph, we are also told that we shall be asked to consider other measures to assist in the improvement of farms and of farm income.

All those who are interested in agriculture, chiefly in eastern Canada, found in that part of the speech from the throne a reason for satisfaction and hope. I know that the Quebec farmers, and more particularly those of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, will welcome the setting up of that department which will, among other things be responsible for the administration of ARDA.

I want to limit my remarks to this single aspect of the speech, Mr. Speaker, in order to call hon. members' attention to the problems of the farm and of the farmers, and to the advantage there will be for them in being a party, as a professional group, to that new trend in agriculture.

Our farmers already understand that, collectively, they will have to co-operate with the new department, by supplying the required information, and by making recommendations based on their experience and knowledge with regard to their problems. The problems of agriculture are many. And, for various reasons, they are arduous ones to solve. There is certainly no need of resorting to a lot of statistics, Mr. Speaker, to have the house admit that, more particularly in the east the farmers' position has deteriorated dangerously in the last few years.

Here is a list of the main issues which affect our eastern farmers, and which, I think, call for an immediate solution.

- 1—Overproduction of milk.
- 2—Excessively high prices for feed grain and mill feed.
- 3—Considerable number of too small and too poor farms.