

*The Address—Mr. Regier*

will become blue or it will vanish completely. I would like to inform those of you in the Liberal ranks in this house who still love a red tie that the leader of my section today is the custodian of red ties, and you may make your application to him for the vacant chair beside me.

Once in a while a blue tie turns into a deep purple, which is a most misleading colour. Of course I am referring to the section to my left. I certainly hope that we in Canada will never really adopt parties of either inaction, of revolution, or of reaction as our own. I hope the day will soon come when we, like the people of the British Isles, will return to the real two-party system in Canada, the red and the blue.

My reference to the red tie that the Liberals used to wear, Mr. Speaker, was not meant to be only humorous. There is plenty of evidence in this country of ours that this government, despite all the surpluses in the budgets over a period of years, and despite the fact that it has been able to find billions annually for armaments, seems unable or unwilling to give our people the basic social security to which they are justly entitled. Canada is a land having tremendous productive capacity. When I think of what we would be able to produce if we went out for full production, without many of the deliberate limitations in the interest of their own economy that are resorted to by the managers of industry; when I think of us applying our ingenuity to invent new methods whereby we may increase the productive capacity of our nation, then I say our national production could be vastly more than it is today.

If the nations of Europe, ravaged as they have been by several wars, are able to give their people a comprehensive social security plan, surely we in Canada, having so much more, ought not to deny to anyone the basic standards of food, clothing, shelter, health services and equal educational opportunities.

Let us look at what we do offer our people. I can think of a multitudinous array of things that we do offer. We have local relief and social welfare; we have mothers' allowances; we have family allowances; we have workmen's compensation; we have veterans' allowances of various kinds; we have compensation payments; we have life insurance; we have fire insurance. We have all these things, yet throughout our dominion there are many individuals left who do not fit into any of these and who are in dire need. Just as an example I can think of a married man, 45 years of age, with a family to feed, who has no means with which to buy his daily bread once his unemployment insurance benefits run out, unless he is willing to do

so at the expense of his local municipality, and no decent citizen likes to do that.

I noticed with a great deal of pleasure that the speech from the throne made reference to aid for the handicapped. I hope it will be liberal aid—I mean a small "l"—and I hope it will take in all the handicapped of all ages. I should like at this time to voice a plea that not yet another separate administrative department of government be set up to handle another type of pension. For the sake of efficiency and economy I would plead with the government to consult with the municipal and provincial authorities in our dominion, to explore at the initial meeting whether it is not possible to combine all our insurance and pension plans—and we have many of them, as I have already indicated—and make adequate provision for all. I think a great deal of money, millions, would be saved in administration alone.

I was very much concerned by the apparent decision of this government to move the main operating services of the national film board from Ottawa to Montreal. I am not in a position to say whether or not it should be done; but sitting back here and observing the questions and answers, and hearing some of the members of the official opposition speak, it seems fairly obvious to me that this move is being made without prior consultation with all hon. members. I feel that it is a most important move which may have far-reaching consequences. Therefore I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) will see fit, as he has indicated he will, to consult with the other members of his cabinet and that we will be given an opportunity to look into this matter more fully.

As some hon. members know I am the first Mennonite ever to be elected to this House of Commons. There are about 135,000 people in the dominion who adhere to the Mennonite religion. As the historians say, ever since Rome became Christian and the church became Roman the Mennonites and their predecessor sects, along with others, have opposed the use of armed force to settle disagreement between equals, be it individuals, cities, nations or alliances of nations.

If two people out on the sidewalks of Ottawa become annoyed with one another we say to them, "You two men have no right to slug it out," as the ordinary saying goes. We say to them, "You must have your argument settled by some higher authority." If we apply that to the municipal level we will realize that we have long since got past the stage where we permit cities to war upon one another. I think we have got past the stage where we permit nations to make war one