

concerned and preoccupied with, above all others, the problem of unemployment instead of spending its time and energy dreaming up this type of meaningless, impractical, foolish, philosophical "guk". I cannot find words to express just how I feel about the sort of statements I find in the Speech from the Throne which was delivered a few days ago. Let the government, for heaven's sake, not try to tell the unemployed, the struggling pensioner, the hardworking farmer, the woodsman and the fisherman that "the life-support systems of the biosphere may collapse unless man reverses his present course and begins to live in harmony, rather than in competition, with his environment".

These people I am talking about have their problem with life-support all right, but in much more practical and everyday terms than are suggested in the Speech from the Throne. By all means let us be concerned about pollution; I will subscribe to that. Let the scientists pursue and test their theories. Let the government show its concern by taking action. Let all concerned Canadians co-operate in the fight against pollution. But let us not get so up-tight on the subject that we forget the mental pollution that exists in the minds of honest, hardworking people who so much want the opportunity to earn a decent living, people who get no such opportunity but instead are forced to swallow their self-respect and head for an interview with the nearest welfare officer. This should be a matter of prime concern in this country today.

It would be very difficult to convince the fishermen and farmers of this country that they must today discontinue competition with their environment. The fishermen of Newfoundland have been competing with their environment in a life and death struggle for centuries. I know of no other way in which they can earn their living. It seems to me it would almost make more sense to tell the Atlantic Ocean that it must begin to live in harmony with the fisherman than to tell the fisherman in Newfoundland that he must live in harmony with the Atlantic Ocean.

I suggest a little commonsense in the Speech from the Throne, for a change, would not hurt. I suggest we have an environment that we could not possibly live with if we did not fight it. Perhaps the speech did not take into consideration at all the fact that there are other parts of Canada besides the great urban centres. However, it may be the Prime Minister who should get a more thoughtful and knowledgeable speechwriter.

I move on to the next paragraph of the Throne Speech, which almost paralyses me with its profundity. It begins: The decade of the 'seventies extends beyond our present vision—

If that is saying that we are not clairvoyant and cannot look ten years into the future, that is quite an admission.

● (9:30 p.m.)

—yet the momentum of change is already so overwhelming that man can no longer afford the luxury of reacting to events.

I am sure this government must look pretty silly to the world today, in light of events that have occurred in the

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past few weeks and—I am very serious now—bearing in mind the warnings that have been given to it over the past few years, warnings which it refused to heed or pay any attention to. Now we get the statement that man can no longer afford the luxury of reacting to events. Then we find these words:

He must anticipate and plan. He must accept that contentment and indifference are illusory; that the most dramatic reality is change; that there is more need than ever before to preserve as constant values truth, honesty, excellence and relevance—

Here comes the clincher:

—that a society which is not inspired by love and compassion is not worthy of the name.

So, Mr. Speaker, you will understand why I am suspicious of the author of this document—make love, not war nor work. But to become serious for a moment, I have a feeling I have read those or very similar words before. Those words, in my opinion—I shall not offer an opinion as to whether they were intentional or otherwise—are of the type which serve only to encourage those who would tear down our traditions, upset our laws and set our social order in jeopardy. I ask hon. members to couple those words with a previous line in the Throne Speech:

—man may be facing his last opportunity to control his own destiny rather than be subject to it.

Mr. Speaker, what do we have when we just sort of go through the Throne Speech and extract this type of statement? I shall repeat it again because it is worth repeating—man must control his own destiny rather than be subject to it. In times like this I very seriously doubt whether that statement should be emphasized responsibly. Although I would rather believe this is not intentional, it strikes me that that sort of suggestion could only lend encouragement to those elements which are today trying to tear us apart in this country. Let me again read these words:

—man can no longer afford the luxury of reacting to events. He must anticipate and plan.

Here again I very seriously question the wisdom of such a statement in a Throne Speech at a time like this. Then we have these words, "contentment and indifference are illusory". Again, I very very seriously question the motivation of a government that tells its people in time like these that contentment is an illusion. I cannot help feeling this way, because obviously something is wrong. I hope the Canadian people have received copies of this Speech and will read it as I did. It is frightening just to think about the interpretations which might be put on these words by the very people who are causing our difficulties.

Then we see these words, "the most dramatic reality is change". This is spelled out very clearly in the Throne Speech. Again, I very seriously question the wisdom of this government lining itself up with that sentiment at this time. Then it says, "not inspired by love and compassion is not worthy of the name." I cannot help but wonder whether those words will not be interpreted in certain circles a meaning, not inspired by love and compassion is not worthy of continued existence, because