

*Speech from the Throne*

Mr. Speaker, what is required is a clear commitment to implement measures now which would result in regaining control of certain sectors that have a clear potential for growth in the world economy. Two years ago I proposed floating our dollar and using our dollar reserves currently sitting in the United States to obtain controlling interest in our petroleum industry. Recently, the hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans) made a similar argument. He pointed out that our current reserve levels of \$5 billion would be sufficient to obtain control of both Chrysler and Dupont. It matters not which important industries we get control of now. Surely, a number of possible labour intensive alternatives are available after a serious assessment is made. However, it does matter that we start now. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians walking our bitter, cold streets in search of work have already waited too long.

• (1600)

**Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre):** Like so many other members who have contributed to this debate, I would like to start by congratulating the mover and seconder of the motion that we are now debating. Unlike some of the other speeches we have heard today they were both, in my opinion, optimistic speeches. The speakers did not duck some of the problems that confront the country but, on the other hand they did not paint a uniformly black picture of this country as some others are inclined to do.

If I had an hour or an hour and a half, I would be strongly tempted to take a long look at some of the statements that were made by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) and elaborate on them. Some of the things he spoke about made quite a lot of sense but others did not make much sense. A Liberal is not a doctrinaire person, so he is able to accept things that sound sensible and discard the nonsense. He does not have to judge a person's performance by a beatific vision he has seen.

I wonder whether the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby would ask Mr. Schreyer, loudly and clearly so that the people of Manitoba could understand, whether the premier does or does not want any DREE money to help private enterprise or any other enterprise to develop in Manitoba. If he does not want DREE money, my question to him would be whether he would rather have plain, ordinary Manitoba money because he would certainly wish to use any money he can find in Manitoba to encourage industry to develop so that the people in Manitoba can have jobs. I wonder whether he would really, seriously go to Saskatchewan and tell the farmers there that a little inflation or a great deal of inflation does not matter a hell of a lot, and whether he would go to his constituents and say to them: dear constituents, you can always sell cars; they are so damn good and so intrinsically great that you have the right to a job making cars. It does not matter how expensive they are, they will be bought all over the world. That is one of the things about price stability.

Before the hon. member finished, he said that it would be a dreadful thing to do certain things that would drive up our dollar. I cannot see why it would be more dreadful to drive up the value of our dollar than it would be to drive up the price of the goods that that dollar represents by inflation. On the one hand, you have inflation which is

perfectly good and hurts no one other than the men who clip coupons and, on the other hand, you have this dollar which is a terrible thing. So there are inconsistencies in the hon. member's speech. I could go on for a long time on that subject and I intend to do so, but it is time to talk about something else today.

I would like to say that since 1867 there have been periods of provincial ascendancy in this land and other periods during which the central government has dominated the scene. But I submit that it has consistently been the federal power alone that has been able to take effective steps to remove the barriers that create isolation, to permit each Canadian to detect his own potential, to ensure that his image of Canada is one of promise and compassion.

Let us recall a few of the big decisions made by the federal power that have made a nation out of this country. Macdonald's insistence that there be a railway from sea to sea, which policy he carried through this House after a bitter and long debate lasting a full two months, was one of them. The then leader of the opposition—there were no third and fourth parties then, but if there had been they would have put in their two bits worth—said that a trans-Canada railroad could not be completed in ten years, which is what the contract called for, "with all the power of men and all the money in the Empire". Yet, at Craigellachi in 1885 the job was completed and the Canada we know began to become a possibility. Doubtless, the leader of the opposition and many of the leading columnists of the day considered Macdonald to be arrogant, technocratic and even dictatorial for persisting in getting this program through parliament, for defying the opposition. But the insults have been forgotten and the railway line survives.

Then, there was Laurier's settlement of the west, which added muscle and sinew to the long cross-continental backbone that this railway had produced.

There was also, parliament's decision to create a Canadian navy rather than to contribute money and men to the British fleet. Again, there was a lot of flak over that one.

**An hon. Member:** Where is the merchant navy now?

**Mr. Osler:** There is a lot of flak still, but by and large it is to be ignored because if attention had been paid to the flak then there would have been no Canadian nation. We would have been true imperialists, donating our money to the Royal Navy and we would have remained colonialists whom everyone decries today. So, the opposition establishes the traditional routine of being against everything and says that it is arrogant to get things done. There would have been no Canadian navy and Canada would have been tied to the apron strings of its imperial mother for ever and ever. Now, there is no imperial mother and there is no empire to be tied to, so I suppose Canada would be holding the knot up in the air.

Then there have been other things, such as the establishment of the CBC, the conception of which was very fine, along with the enforcement of federal control over broadcasting. There has been a wide range of social assistance programs, too. Everybody will agree perhaps with this. They might say that perhaps there has not been