

The pith and substance of the Speech we heard yesterday were summarized by two observations made therein, which I quote. The first:

My Government is deeply ... committed to the objectives of a just society and a prosperous economy in a peaceful world.

And the second:

...the righting of wrongs and ... the opening of opportunities long denied.

Highlighting the legislative program, after dealing initially with the improvement of parliamentary rules and procedures, are the following:

1. An Official Languages Act, as one phase of constitutional reform.
2. The establishment of a department charged with the objective of ensuring that people in all areas and regions of our country have as equal access as possible to the opportunities of Canada's economic development.
3. The formation of a Costs and Prices Review Board.
4. Measures to protect farmers and fishermen, and incentives for oil and gas production.
5. The formation of an institution where long-term research and thinking on governmental matters can be carried out.

I am hopeful that in the monetary and fiscal fields we shall, during the session, see the implementation of policies which will assure us of a sound and stable dollar; a balanced budget; and a thorough revision of the Income Tax Act, preferably by the use of the English and French languages in such act, for the purpose of introducing precision and clarity rather than obfuscation and confusion, which has been the case in the past.

As one of the great trading nations of the world, it is a matter of primary importance that we bring an end to the inflationary spiral and stabilize the price and wage structure in our country so that we may retain and expand our markets in the world and at the same time bring about an equilibrium between the income of the average Canadian earner and the price that he is required to pay for commodities and services.

It is in order that we ask organized labour to be, shall I say, discreet and helpful in not making inordinate demands, but it would not be fair if such request were not accompanied

by the introduction of such economic conditions and the performance of such acts that will be required in order to stabilize the price structure.

Essentially, we must create a climate in which all are interested in increasing production, provided all benefit thereby. The emphasis should be on productivity rather than on the equities of distribution, even though the latter should, of course, not be overlooked. When guests, both invited and uninvited, assemble at the dinner table there is a greater likelihood that appetite will be satisfied and thirst assuaged if there is food and water on the table. No high moral or ethical principles by way of economic dissertation will mean much if the dinner table is bare.

In view of the limited time at my disposal, honourable senators will appreciate that I will be able to deal only with a few of the subject matters either dealt with or alluded to in the Speech from the Throne.

The recent events in Eastern Europe have shocked all liberty loving people, including ourselves. That such has happened in other lands surely should make us realize how fortunate we are in being the current beneficiaries of institutions of liberty and self-expression for which we are indebted to prior generations who fought and struggled for the evolution and development of these institutions which constitute the cornerstone of our liberties.

Our geographical location between the giant super-power of the U.S.S.R. to the immediate north of us, and that of the United States to the south, places our land in a uniquely vulnerable position. The importance of avoiding thermo-nuclear warfare which would lead to the annihilation of civilization is of paramount consideration. If catastrophic warfare were to break out, Canada would be a filbert crushed between the powerful nut-cracker from the north and the south. A mere realization of this fact should make us particularly anxious to contribute in every way to every attempt that is being made for peace and order in the world.

In a large country such as ours there is a natural tendency on the domestic scene to approach some problems on a regional and sometimes on a parochial basis. Current events outside of Canada should bring us back to a proper perspective of the world scene. We must continue to co-operate with all liberty-loving peoples so that our heritage be not destroyed.