

The Address—Mr. Peters

Scotia. The program on Speed left me wondering, as I suspect it left everybody else wondering, why we have allowed some of our young people, for some reason that our sociologists cannot explain to us, to develop for themselves an escape mechanism of which the world has hitherto been ignorant. We all know about hard drugs like opium and heroin. Although opium dens have existed in China for centuries, I have yet to meet a Chinaman who was a real addict. The Chinese buy opium only when they have the money, and then they buy only what they can afford. Although they take a "trip" they are not addicts. They take it once and then leave it alone for the rest of the week.

Other people seem to be unable to do this, and perhaps it is a question of culture. Some people are looking at marijuana in terms of tobacco. Perhaps the tobacco industry is looking at it too, because it is fairly easy to grow. In fact, in some places it is almost a weed. It might be a good substitute for my colleague who does not like tobacco; he might be willing for us to grow marijuana.

Mr. Mather: You don't get lung cancer from it, either.

Mr. Peters: Yes, that is right. This little program that I viewed, and which I understand was seen by most Canadians, showed that we have not done too much experimentation in the matter of Speed. Speed is a drug that is used for staying awake. It helps people like truck drivers and students to concentrate on their work. It is injected into a vein. But according to the program, our hospitals do not know how to treat a person who may be dying of an overdose of Speed, and most hospitals are unable to control its effects. Although this program undoubtedly left about three million Canadians with an understanding of the problem of Speed, we as politicians are not in the least trying to solve that problem. The public is given the impression that Parliament is off in some never-never land, ignoring the problem.

The second program I saw, as I have said, was about the heavy water plant in Nova Scotia. I got the impression that there were a number of honest mistakes made when the plant was built. There was probably a crook involved somewhere, but other people were sincerely trying to find a solution to the problems of Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, they went into the matter with their eyes only half open and without having received proper advice. The people of that province have contributed \$100 million toward this plant; yet it

is estimated another \$50 million is required to make it a success. The alternatives are not very encouraging. The province can give the plant away to somebody in the United States and hope that they can make it a success; they can try and complete the plant themselves, or they can sell it for scrap.

The members of this parliament will have to answer this audience of three million Canadians who saw the program. We will have to tell them that at Chalk River there is a group of people who are capable of deciding whether or not the plant at Glace Bay can be put into production. At the present time we are having to negotiate with Russia for the purchase of heavy water. Surely Canadians have an obligation to help maritimers get themselves out of a difficult position.

The CBC and other networks today are providing the people of Canada with an understanding of the problems facing the country, problems that we in parliament are not prepared to face. Unless we do face these problems the public will become very disillusioned. A few weeks ago I had an opportunity to attend a pseudo-political conference in Timmins held by the Ontario government. In a very broad sense it appeared to me—and I say this kindly—that it was some sort of leadership fight at a time when there was no leadership contest. It developed into a pretty good "beef" session for the people of northern Ontario. About 100 civil servants were in attendance along with many politicians and people from every walk of life. It was a very interesting and very lively three or four days. It will take some time to assess how much wheat and how much chaff will result from this conference and others held in northern Ontario. It was very plain to anyone in attendance that the easiest way to be heard and to gain approval is to oppose Toronto and damn the Ontario government. This raises the other point I want to mention in the few minutes I have left.

● (5:50 p.m.)

We in Northern Ontario are in the same situation as everyone in the northern area of Canada beyond that affluent strip, even though it may be spasmodic in places. I have in mind areas where resources have been removed. In some cases they have been removed to the point that the resources are no longer available. I also have in mind areas where resources are still being developed but where very little processing is taking place. These areas stretch from Newfoundland to