

The Address—Mr. Thompson

We cannot continue to shout the cry of the pessimist. I was interested in an editorial which appeared in the April 3 issue of *Maclean's* magazine. My attention was drawn to this editorial in this magazine which appeared under the title: "Give those crepe-hangers a holiday". I will not put it all on the record although I think it is all worth doing so, but there are a few thoughts which I think are important enough to mention. It says:

Canada is a big rich country, with an eventful past, a prosperous present, and a promising future. Its people are among the most fortunate in the world. Almost everyone in the world seems to know this—except a few of us.

We are getting tired of Canadians who are getting tired of their country. We are weary of citizens who worry so much. We have become impatient with the panicky and the pessimistic, with Canadians who are so preoccupied with our problems, so overwhelmed by our crises, and so upset by our scandals that they want to give up, or run away, or join the United States.

Of course Canada has its problems: We have always had them. We've had scandals before, and unfortunately will likely have them again. They are serious, but Canadians are a serious people possessed of great strength. Our past failures were not fatal ones; basically sound government did not end. Our institutions remain strong and democratic freedom is still cherished, corruption is the exception in our public life and honesty the rule.

Canadians are troubled over the apparent ineffectiveness of parliament and obstructionism in the Commons.

The article then proceeds to elaborate on that point. These are words we should think about because we should be proud that we are part of the Canadian scene today shouldering the tremendous challenge we have toward improving it and strengthening it.

I find that the speech from the throne is repetitious, ambiguous and vague in what it says or does not say about the basic economic needs of this country. I do not think it is good enough to say complacently that these are good times and all is well. For the moment things may appear on the surface to be in good shape. But the estimates point in another direction. To say what should be our goals is one thing; we need to define our goals. How to get there is another matter, and the important thing is to point out the path which will lead us to these goals. We must recognize that we have solved the problems of production but that all the economic planning in the world will be of no avail unless it includes the adjustments in our financial system necessary to bring about the just distribution of this potential plenty without driving us further into the controlling arms of the state. When I consider the estimates presented to us, I say this: If in pros-

perity we cannot balance the budget, what will be the situation in adversity or in times which are less affluent? In fact, in the estimates passed last Friday night there was one item of some \$396 million which represented the deficit in the superannuation account that was passed over into the national debt with hardly a murmur or word spoken at all. When more than \$1,100 million is required in this next fiscal year to pay the interest on the national debt alone, then something is wrong. That is an increase of more than 10 per cent over last year. Out of every tax dollar collected, nearly 14 cents of it is going to be used to pay off the interest on this debt.

• (9:30 p.m.)

No one can disagree with a declaration of war on poverty. There is no need for poverty in this rich land of Canada. There is no reason except our own inadequacy and our own inability to face up to a few simple facts that we should be able to see clearly. If the affairs of this nation, both private and public, were properly managed there would be no need for anyone living in any other than adequate conditions with a good standard of living. Our own good judgment and willingness to work and develop our national resources should be the only limitation to the good life we should be able to enjoy in Canada; and that includes everyone. I agree with the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) when he says that we are in a new era and the age of scarcity is past. We now live in an age of abundance; but the real problem in this age of abundance is not just planning; it is a problem of distribution where we will be able to distribute the production they themselves as producers are able to produce. Therefore there are some very fundamental things that we must not pass over.

The throne speech refers to the farmers of Canada and new policies which will result in larger and more reliable incomes to bring the agricultural industry up to the level of other parts of the economy. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hays) has already enunciated a new dairy policy. I believe that in his recent trip "down under" he must have received a good many ideas for his dairy policy from New Zealand, because I recognize most of them. The only difference is that he will subsidize dairy products with money he must first collect from the taxpayers, instead of using the Bank of Canada as the New Zealand government today is using the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to make sure that the two-price system operates not only