

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

mittee was set up; this year there is the undertaking to bring about proposals for reform. Last year there was the undertaking to establish a committee on the procedure and organization of parliament. Then as far as trade is concerned there are two long paragraphs:

Our country is achieving a high rate of economic growth. Trade is expanding.

All of that is true. It is true because of the fact that when the Diefenbaker government was in office—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —we acted in 1960—

**Mr. Pearson:** Wasn't it a Conservative government?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —and they have added nothing in particular. All they have done is to accept and envelope our policies which they criticized.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Pearson government has done nothing.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I look at these panjandrums who sit in the front benches. Lest anybody think that is an unparliamentary expression, sir, it is not; it simply means—

**Mr. Nowlan:** Stupid and ossified.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —self constituted magnificoes. What did these panjandrums say when we were in office? They said they were going to end the pegged dollar. They said it was wrong to trade with communist China. I could go through the whole picture of things which they criticized and which have become the cornerstone of their policies.

What have they to offer for agriculture? They were going to have two ministers of agriculture, and now we have got one who is never here. That is not quite fair; he is here on a stopover between trips. Sometimes he deigns to come. What about the position of agriculture across the country? What is being done by the government in the face of a fall in the price of wheat? What action are they taking? Where are the promises of \$2 wheat, for which every one of those hon. members stood in 1963? It was repudiated in January of 1965 by the Minister of Agriculture? What has been done? What course has been followed by this government to increase the markets for agricultural products? Sir, there can be only

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one answer. This is a government that has been so busy falling over its own feet that it has not been able to bring any effective measures before the house.

What about this speech from the throne? Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue. They borrowed from the United States the idea of a youth corps. That is a good idea. They also decided they would borrow an all-comprehensive plan to banish poverty in our country. I will be listening with interest as the Prime Minister reveals how this is going to be achieved, except through the ordinary principles of expanding trade and reducing costs so that Canadian manufacturers may be competitive in the world.

**An hon. Member:** What about the sales tax?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have looked over this program within the time I have had, Mr. Speaker. It contains a compendium of unfinished business. It reveals a catch-all of promises for the future, policies that cannot be fulfilled and programs that have been left undone. I listened this morning to the editor of the *Citizen* giving his nepotic views on this subject. He said there was a bombshell dropped on parliament by that speech. Instead of positive, detailed and constructive programs we have vague generalities, except in a certain particular to which I shall refer.

I ask you, sir, have you not looked in vain for anything in these far ranging so-called broad programs that will assure a million and a half new jobs in the next three years? I ask you whether you have not looked in vain for programs and policies aimed at raising the national income of all Canadians through resource development. I ask you whether you have not looked in vain for any new immigration policies designed to encourage those who have the necessary skills who would take up residence in Canada. I ask what has been done to solve the problems of economic blight and rural misery. All that is being done in this speech is to state an objective while being most careful not to indicate how these ephemeral promises can be carried into actual and effective operation.

• (3:40 p.m.)

Then there is something more, and I shall deal with it particularly. Where is there anything to indicate, while maintaining the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces over education, the recognition of the plight of university students hit by new increases in tuition fees? Where are the 10,000 scholarships? Where are they?