

At the jeers of the doubting crew  
Or dare you whether you win or fail  
Strike out for the goal that is new?

That is what Social Credit stands for; that is the star to which we must attach our wagon.

**Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to congratulate the mover (Mr. Hollingworth) and the seconder (Mr. Villeneuve) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, two new members who have been in this chamber only a few days. I think their contributions were worth while, and I believe they will go far in the public life of the country.

In the few minutes at my disposal this afternoon I wish to deal with matters that are of interest to me and which I believe should be brought to the attention of the house and the people of the country. When the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) was speaking in the house on November 16 he had this to say, as appears at page 37 of *Hansard*:

It is the omissions from the speech which are most noticeable. We are told that "there are some sectors of our economy which have been faced with difficulties". That is indeed an understatement. Nothing is said about the textile industry, the cheese producers, the dairy farmers, the cattle breeders, or other producers who are looking for some information as to what they may expect. There is a very noticeable silence about the critical situation resulting from the vast accumulation of unsold grain on the farms of the prairie provinces.

The matter with which I wish to deal concerns the omissions that I found in the platform of the Progressive Conservative party during the last election campaign and in the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition when he spoke in the house just two days ago. I believe that a national leader or a national party should never single out any particular primary producer or manufacturer for special benefits. A national party and a national leader should speak for all the people of our country. To me it was most noticeable that the fishermen, who form a good part of the population in Charlotte and other counties, were completely ignored. I believe the facts should be put on the record as to the conditions under which these primary producers are endeavouring to make a livelihood at the present time.

There is one other fact I might mention. In the maritime provinces today the potato growers are in most distressed circumstances. They are selling their product below the cost of production, a matter which apparently has not been brought to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition inasmuch as he failed to make any mention of that particular group who are in a most serious way.

*The Address—Mr. A. W. Stuart*

But he did take a great deal of time to bring to the attention of the house the position in which the wheat producers of western Canada now find themselves. I believe that after the explanation given by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) today much of their fear may have been removed. The report he gave to the house surely would indicate that that particular group of primary producers does not have a great deal to worry about.

Another industry which means so much to the economy of the maritime provinces, and I speak particularly of course of my own province, is the pulp and paper industry. During the past year it has been passing through a period of inactivity when purchases of raw materials and sales have been slow. It means a great deal to the people of that section of the country, but again that particular industry was completely ignored. No mention was made of it. I wonder why a national leader and national party would not be aware of these conditions which most of us know exist in our country.

The most depressed industry of them all is fisheries. It also was completely ignored in the Progressive Conservative platform of 1953 and in the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition two days ago. If the fishermen on the Atlantic coast had enjoyed three, four or five years of prosperity I am sure they would not be seeking assistance from any government at this time. If after three or four prosperous seasons they now had a bumper catch for 1953 safely stored for a rainy day they would have little to worry about, and I feel sure they would be most happy. Such, however, is not the case. Rather than prosperous seasons these primary producers have had four or five lean seasons.

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** Under a Liberal administration.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** I am not blaming any government for these conditions. No one has heard me do that. What I am criticizing is the fact that these matters are not brought to the attention of the people by the leader of the official opposition and were not mentioned in their platform which was broadcast right across the country last summer. That is what I find fault with. They were completely ignored by the Progressive Conservative party. I might also add that those supporting that party who came to my county to support their candidate talked about cheese, housing and the money they were going to save the people if they took office after the election, but no mention was made of that industry which means so much to the four maritime provinces.