

The Address—Mr. Irvine

1965, a contribution from its Canadian Press service. It reads as follows:

If Canada's "romance" with United States capital continues, the result could be a "shotgun political marriage," Beland H. Honderich, editor-in-chief of the *Toronto Star*, said yesterday in an address to U.S. and Canadian members of the International Press Institute here.

Mr. Honderich said that while Canadians like U.S. people, they are also worried about them.

"American cultural, economic and political influences so pervade our way of life that we have begun to wonder if our relatively small nation can retain its independence in face of strong pressures generated by our giant neighbour to the south."

I bring this to the attention of Hon. Members because it is of great concern to me and I am sure it must be of concern to every red-blooded Canadian. The report shows that through investment in Canada, Americans control 60 per cent of our petroleum industry, 52 per cent of our mining and smelting, 35 per cent of our pulp and paper, and 45 per cent of our manufacturing. This is a condition that should be of great concern to every Canadian. This is a very serious state of affairs.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Following this up, Mr. Speaker, I did not notice anything in the Throne Speech with regard to any future plans in trade and commerce. I am sure everybody here must be concerned about the imbalance of trade that we have with the United States, which runs into approximately \$500 million a year; an unfavourable imbalance, I might say. Then we must take a look at some of the other countries, like Japan, Russia and China, where we have a very favourable trade balance. But some day, perhaps in the not too distant future, these nations are going to want from us a greater share of our import business. We have to now prepare something to correct these little differences and big differences that we have in the imbalance of trade. I think this puts us in a very bad light, unless we are prepared to do something about it now.

Recently we had tabled and delivered to each Member of this House the 1965 spending estimates. Sir, I am going to tell you that I was amazed to think there was such a great amount of money involved. The general amount is \$7,400 million; but then we must add to this loans and investments and advances, which amount to another \$202 million. We must add to that old age security payments of another \$905 million. Then we must add to that the supplementary estimates that will be coming up during the fiscal year, and the total spending we will

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have during this fiscal year will be something in the neighbourhood of maybe a little more than \$9 billion.

I am just wondering how long a small population of something less than 20 million people can stand this kind of spending. This represents \$450 for every man, woman and child throughout this country of ours. Let us look back for a moment, Sir, to 1950 and the expenditures we had at that time. In 1950 our expenditures were \$2,300 million, less than a quarter of what they are now; in 1955 they were \$4,700 million; in 1960, \$6,600 million; in 1963, \$7,400 million. Sure we are growing; but are we growing that fast? Then in this year, 1965, the figure is approximately \$9 billion.

Then, sir, if we look back to the national debt as of March 31, 1964, we find that it was something in excess of \$15 billion. Let us just for a moment review the amount of interest on this debt, because we are in the position that we are ballooning our debts; we are paying interest on interest on interest. In 1950 the interest was \$427 million; in 1963 it was \$867 million, almost twice as much; in 1964 it was over \$1 billion; and this year it is \$1,101 million. Sir, I would say that this should be considered, not as a debt to be passed on to future generations but as a great, oppressive charge hanging over the heads of our taxpayers at the present time.

The business that we operate in this House is the biggest business in Canada, and as a businessman I ask this: How could any business, large or small, continue to operate and flourish with this type of management? We are now in an era of great prosperity. I am not going to say to anybody here that this prosperity started under the previous Administration, because the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp) has made that quite clear. He said here—I cannot give the exact date—in about September or October of last year that the upswing started in 1960. So I will leave it with him. However, sir, I would say that on the basis of the great debt that we have, we should be setting aside so much every year to pay this off during these periods of prosperity, in order that we might come to the aid of the needy in times when perhaps things are not quite as good as they are today. There is no reason for us to have a feeling of confidence in the present Government's handling of our national accounts.

Mr. Speaker, in going over the Speech from the Throne, there is nothing in there to indicate that anything is going to be done about basic exemptions for income tax. I