

*The Address—Mr. Lachance*

list, the main points which are of interest to me.

My personal experience with the Lafontaine riding electorate, which I have had the privilege to represent in this house since June 18, 1962—following Mr. Ratelle who was the first member for that riding and whose great integrity is well known to all and especially to those we have known him in the house—as well as with the people of the province of Quebec I have had the opportunity to meet since I was elected, leads me to believe that a particular question seems to concern the average Quebecker, and it is this: when are they going to end discussing federal, provincial, municipal or educational jurisdiction at the expense of the taxpayer?

For the fact cannot be denied that, no matter which jurisdiction wins the battle, the cost is always assumed by the same taxpayer. Let the people concerned examine this thought in their conscience.

Is Ottawa right in keeping certain fields of taxation to pay the cost of its legislation? Are the provinces right in insisting for a greater share of revenue to discharge their responsibilities? Is the Canadian people willing to accept that the federal government stop honouring the commitments it has made so far, especially as regards social security measures such as family allowances, old age pensions and others of a similar nature, unemployment insurance, hospital insurance, etc.?

And it should not be forgotten that the federal government's activity is reflected in a considerable number of measures which, in their application, have now become part of the lives of Canadian citizens. And it is always the same taxpayer who today witnesses his representatives battling, discussing eagerly, invoking political and constitutional arguments, and this in order to hold the distinguished honour of "squeezing the lemon".

This taxpayer knows very well that whatever jurisdiction wins the fight, he will not pay less, he may even pay more, and that a bird in the hand is quite often worth two in the bush.

When will it be realized that the Canadian citizen is much more interested in his small personal business, in his trade, in his work, than in political problems, particularly those of higher politics.

Instead of beating one's brain to find the mystery-solution which will get the front-page in the press tomorrow, would it not be advisable to seek the political solution which would be beneficial in a round table conference, in order not to break the chain?

[Mr. Lachance.]

Our economic and labour problems, our foreign relations, the search for new markets should be the subject of our constant investigation.

Our system of a central government and provincial governments offers the possibility of trading in a common market which is interesting and profitable for everybody, because the advantages of well planned inter-provincial trading are great and almost unlimited.

However, our economic activity must not be confined to our country, but must be apparent in our relations with other countries.

Until now, it seems that this economic activity, like a magnetic needle has oscillated between two poles: the United Kingdom and the United States. Following our wheat sales to various communist countries, we realized that new horizons were open to our trade, and I do not think our country has yet taken advantage fully of the many markets which have opened up since the independence of new countries, especially in Africa.

Allow me to touch here on a matter which is always delicate and stirs up the criticism of narrow-minded people of questionable sincerity, that is the matter of the recognition of communist China and its admission to the United Nations. To note the existence of a country does not imply the acceptance of its system of government, especially if it is considered that Canada has been trading regularly with that country for several years already. It is rather giving evidence of an enlightened and wise realism. Who would dare to maintain any longer that he can shove his head in the sand like an ostrich when a storm is blowing between the U.S.S.R. and communist China? Sooner or later that storm will have to be faced and, indeed, the safest shelter seems to be within the United Nations.

And to continue in the field of external affairs, if in joining the Organization of American States, Canada is able to promote greater economic activity, it should not hesitate to join that organization.

The right hon. Prime Minister shows all the interest he is taking in problems relating to international trade in the choice and qualifications of the persons who will represent Canada in the forthcoming GATT negotiations in Geneva. He wants Canada to play a full and active part in those negotiations. The Geneva discussions will be tough; the object of the conference or at least one of its main objects will be the general lowering of tariff walls, that is a linear tariff reduction.

The future of Canadian trade interests is at stake at that conference, and it is to be hoped that Canadian industry and all other sectors which might be affected by the result of the Geneva negotiations will answer the Prime