

*The Address—Mr. Douglas*

on poverty. I may be pardoned for being sceptical when I recall that in 1945 the Liberal government brought down the so-called green book proposals which went much further than anything the Prime Minister has suggested today and much further than anything outlined in the speech from the throne. I attended that conference. Probably it was my naïveté, but I went home convinced that we were entering a new era in federal-provincial relations and building a new Canada. Well, every member of this house knows that those green book proposals are still gathering dust. Virtually nothing was done to implement them.

Since my time is limited I intend to devote most of it to a discussion of what is contained in the speech from the throne, and what is not contained, in the speech from the throne. I may say at once that the weakness of the speech does not lie so much in what it says as in what it fails to say; not so much in what it contains as in what it omits. We in this party do not quarrel with the bits and pieces of legislation proposed but rather with the failure to provide a comprehensive program designed to meet the challenging times in which we are living. We don't want slogans: We want programs. We want more than words: We want action.

The major failure of the speech from the throne is its failure to recognize that we have entered a new era in world history—the scientific revolution. Over a century and a half ago the steam engine launched mankind into the industrial revolution. That era brought with it great blessings with the result that the human race has made more technological progress in the last 150 years than it had made in all the thousands of years during which man inhabited this planet. But it should not be forgotten that the industrial revolution also brought with it economic dislocation and human suffering. As Santayana once said, "those who will not learn from history are condemned to repeat its mistakes." We have the responsibility, as members of this house, to remember that the scientific revolution upon which we are now embarked will have an even more dislocating effect upon our economy.

• (8:30 p.m.)

The industrial revolution replaced man's muscle with a machine: the scientific revolution is replacing man as a minder of the machine. Automatic factories operated by electronic computers are already here. The industrial revolution affected unskilled labour: The scientific revolution is going to dis-

place skilled workers. The industrial revolution affected manual workers: The scientific revolution is going to have an adverse effect upon white-collar workers, bookkeepers, estimators, statisticians, clerks, stenographers. The anomaly of our time is that in a period when our society is capable of producing more of the good things of life than ever before in human history, people have a greater sense of insecurity. There is hardly any form of economic activity that will not be affected by automation and cybernation.

The scientific revolution can be either a curse or a blessing. I want to advance the thesis that it can be a blessing; that it can do three things for our society. First, that it can raise living standards far beyond our fondest dreams. A United States study has just shown that since 1960 productivity per man-hour has risen on an average of 3.5 per cent per year, a rate which is well above the immediate post-war period from 1945 to 1960. It is now estimated that with this increased productivity the United States can increase its gross national product by anywhere from \$60 billion to \$75 billion a year. The era of scarcity has ended. We in the western industrialized civilization have an almost unlimited capacity to produce all the things we need for our creature comforts. It is now possible to have the two great freedoms that Roosevelt talked about, freedom from fear and freedom from want.

Second, the scientific revolution can improve the quality of life for millions of people in our society. Cybernation will release man from drudgery and set him free to develop the things of the mind and the spirit without which man is little better than the beast of the field. The scientific revolution will allow man to concentrate on providing equality of educational opportunity, of promoting good health, creative leisure, and on a new flowering of the human spirit.

The third thing which the scientific revolution can do is enable Canadians to play their part in waging relentless war against poverty, ignorance and disease in the underdeveloped countries of the world. As Adlai Stevenson pointed out, there is another revolution going on in the world: It is the revolution of rising expectations. Two thirds of the world are not going to live in poverty and misery while we enjoy all the benefits of affluence. World peace depends upon our ability to help the newly emerging nations to enjoy some of the benefits of modern technology, not only in terms of goods but in terms of making personnel available, such