

The Address—Mr. Hurlburt

earth and who would ruthlessly force their views on all others, with the abiding assurance that the end justifies the means.

An hon. Member: You are talking about Nixon.

Mr. Hurlburt: Mr. Speaker, once again I am speaking to hon. friends on my left, especially my friend from Nickel Belt, Ontario. I think my friend from Nickel Belt should get down at his bed at night and thank God he lives in this country. He is a man who came from Guyana 14 or 15 years ago, who taught school in this country and has contributed absolutely nothing to it; but he has kept unions and workers riled up and now he is a member of parliament. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for Canada.

Canada is a wealthy country. Even during the depression, Canadians ate and lived better than most people in other countries do today. In reply to the argument that just a little bit of socialism is good so long as it does not go too far, it is tempting to say that, in like fashion, just a little bit of theft or a little bit of cancer is all right, too. History proves that the growth of the welfare state is difficult to check before it comes to its full flower of dictatorship. But let us hope that this time around the trend can be reversed. If not, then we will see the inevitability of complete socialism, probably within our lifetime.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hurlburt: They are pounding and clapping over there, but it is getting weaker and weaker, Mr. Speaker. I think I might have convinced some of them to walk over and join us tomorrow.

Three factors may make a difference. First, there is sufficient historical knowledge of the failures of socialism and of the past mistakes of previous civilizations. Second, there are modern means of rapid communications to transmit these lessons of history to a large, literate population. And thirdly, there is a growing number of dedicated men and women who, at great personal sacrifice, are actively working to promote a wider appreciation of these concepts. The timely joining together of these three factors may make it entirely possible for us to reverse the trend.

This raises the next question: how is it possible to cut out the various welfare programs promoted by our government, which have already fastened themselves like cancer cells on to the body politic? Is drastic surgery already necessary, and can it be performed without endangering the patient? In answer, it is obvious that drastic measures are called for. No halfway or compromise actions will suffice. Like all surgery, it will not be without discomfort, and perhaps it will even leave some scar tissue for a long time to come. But it must be done if the patient is to be saved, and it can be done without undue risk.

The first step toward restoring the limited concept of government should be to freeze all welfare programs at their present level, making sure that no new ones are added. The next step would be to allow all present programs to run out their term, with absolutely no renewal. The third step would involve the gradual phasing-out of those programs which are indefinite in their term. In my opinion, the bulk of the transition could be accomplished

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within a ten-year period, and virtually completed within 20 years.

● (1740)

Mr. Gilbert: Is this Tory policy?

Mr. Hurlburt: No, this is my own policy. Mr. Speaker, I have run into a good deal of static from members to my left. It does not bother me, because I am proud to have been born in this country and proud to have been given the opportunity to earn a living in it. I have not been a charge on any level of government, be it municipal, provincial or federal. I just want the right to run my little farm at home without government interference, and I sure don't want anybody else interfering.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hurlburt: In closing—I am sure hon. friends to my left want me to continue—

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Hurlburt: —all I can say is, the time to act is now. We live in the greatest country in the world. We have the resources; we have the manpower. The government has been handed a mandate. All that is needed now is common sense and strong leadership.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) seeking the floor because he wishes to ask a question?

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, thank you for recognizing me. I have a few minutes in which to speak before 5.45. First, may I congratulate you upon elevation to your office. The act of the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Hurlburt) is pretty hard to follow. You can now understand the great insight he displayed regarding his visit to Cuba. I was amazed by some of his comments, especially his saying I was not a native son of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I tell you that I contribute as much as any other Canadian, and I have all the rights of any Canadian. It bothers me to see the great Tory Party sending Mr. Bill Davis to Italy to garner Italian votes in Canada. At election time they do everything in their power to gain ethnic support, yet some members of that party stand in this House and pass slurs to the effect that I was not born in this country. Actually, the Liberal candidate in Nickel Belt in the last election campaign tried the same trick. He said I was a new Canadian and had no right to represent the people of Nickel Belt. Well, the people of Nickel Belt decided, and whether the hon. member for Lethbridge likes it or not, I am a member of this House, with all the rights and privileges he has.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rodriguez: I have heard three throne speeches. This one reminds me of Alice in Wonderland, and of the little