

The Address—Mr. McCusker

wholehearted support of the Progressive Conservative party on immediate action to proceed with this much needed project.

When I was in Saskatchewan last summer I became acquainted with the great need of bringing water to the area south of Saskatoon, what could be done, and the results that could be expected. I learned that for an outlay of \$100 million a dam could be built which would transform 600,000 normally dry acres into a producer of crops the equal of any in the country. It is estimated that this development would triple the number of farm families who could live in this area, and bring their number to over 3,000. In addition, it would give Saskatchewan a source of hydroelectric power the equivalent of 435 million kilowatt hours per year, which is one and a half times the present needs of this province.

I believe that the way to give Saskatchewan industries which will make that province less dependent upon agriculture is to provide it with hydroelectric power in quantities which this project would provide. I became convinced at that time that this is the sort of project which should be proceeded with for the good of the country as a whole. I say that advisedly as a resident of Ontario, because I have learned that the prosperity of Ontario depends upon the prosperity of the rest of Canada. We in central Canada cannot be prosperous unless the west and the maritimes are prosperous as well.

This type of project can only be undertaken by government, and it is the sort of enterprise which government should undertake. I therefore urge upon this government that they get on with this development at the earliest possible moment. I feel sure that the expenditure which will be necessary for this particular development will receive the wholehearted approval of members of this house from all parts of Canada, and particularly from Ontario.

The Progressive Conservative party has already given its wholehearted approval to this project, as evidenced by the statement made by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) to this house on Monday last, and by the many speeches on this matter made in this house by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker).

Mr. Cruickshank: He now agrees with family allowances, also.

Mr. Hees: The position of the Progressive Conservative party is that what is good for one part of the country is beneficial for the nation as a whole. I therefore hope that the government will see fit to place in the estimates, which they will bring before this

house next February, an adequate amount to ensure that this very advisable and necessary undertaking can be proceeded with immediately.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I say that any country which can produce a surplus of more than \$100 million a month can maintain the standard of living of its disabled veterans and their dependents, and can develop its natural resources as well. I believe that any government that refuses to do this does not deserve to remain long the government of this country.

Mr. E. A. McCusker (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): Had I spoken earlier in this throne address I should have reviewed the needs of my constituency and of the province of Saskatchewan; but as we are now in the sixth week of this session, many things which are of interest to my constituents have already been dealt with, for example, the old age security legislation, that splendid measure brought in by my minister, which will bring so much comfort to the aged people of this country. The veterans pension and allowance act has been dealt with and passed to a committee. The equalization of freight rates has been referred to a committee. Grain transportation and handling have been discussed, and also storage. The question of advances on grain to western farmers who, owing to adverse weather conditions and difficulties in storage, have been unable to harvest or deliver their grain has been fully discussed, and the government has announced that it has under consideration plans to meet this emergency.

Last night the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) announced that he is proceeding west to have discussions with the wheat pool and with other interested parties, and I am sure that much good will come from these conferences. It is the desire of all of us who are interested in western crops to see that the system adopted to make these advances is equitable and does not lead to confusion.

The Minister of Agriculture also spoke of the South Saskatchewan river project. I will not take the time to discuss it today; I discussed it fully in the house last year, and I am glad to see that the recommendations I made then have been adopted, and a commission is now studying the project. As the minister assured us last night, action will soon be taken.

Price controls is a question in which many in my constituency are deeply interested, and on which there are among the public widely divergent opinions. I hope the committee appointed to deal with this will be able to bring in an acceptable solution.