

*The Address—Mr. Bigg*

The Speech from the Throne mentions that the voting age should be lowered to 18 years. That move, I think, is timely and inevitable. Our young people are becoming more educated; we have television and free education across Canada; and it is no longer reasonable for us to say that a man is not mature before he is 21. At 18 our young people will not have the experience of 21 year olds; nevertheless, if our 18 year olds have studied history, politics and civic matters they will be as capable as most people of making up their minds on political matters. If an 18 year old is mature enough to serve in war, I think he is mature enough to vote in peacetime. I shall support the legislation when it comes before the House. Our young people are marrying younger and earning their own living. It seems preposterous to me that a young married person should not have some say about how taxes and the cost of living are to be regulated. I only hope they bring to the polling booths the maturity we can expect as a result of the new leisure time that has been spent in keeping up with world affairs.

Having said that, I tell hon. members that I am not too happy with the Speech from the Throne, because it does not offer solutions to many pressing national problems. I am not a Harvard graduate in economics, but I believe that a certain amount of inflation is built into our present economic system. I think we all agree that expanding prices are the result of an expanding economy. It is only the "runaway inflation" that we are worried about and I am not sure whether the efforts made so far to contain inflation in Canada are adequate. Have we adopted the proper approach in Canada? Our economists and those in charge of fiscal matters have always said, "When there is a depression in the United States there must be one in Canada, and when the economy expands in the United States it must also expand in Canada." I am not sure that this is necessarily true.

Canada is fortunate among the nations of the earth in still having virgin land, enormous natural resources, big rivers of unpolluted waters; vast sources of mineral wealth, oil, and even timber. That being so, I am not at all sure that we are handling inflation the right way. If we were more ready to accept advice from those who have been successful in business, from those who have made a study of the economic problems of the mining or the agricultural industry, we might come to grips with our economic problems in a manner better suited to Canada. I suggest,

perhaps, that we are not putting enough of our own, hard-earned money into our own capital investment. On this matter I cannot go along with the NDP which is busy at Winnipeg now. That party is screaming as usual at the United States and dragging red herrings—and I mean red—across the path. It blames the United States for all our problems.

• (4:00 p.m.)

If we need capital investment in this country, there is no reason why it cannot be obtained here. We are one of the richest countries in the world, not only in untamed natural resources but we have a gross national product of \$60 billion. There is no reason why Canadians cannot tighten their fiscal belt a little. (We are all over-fed and we certainly over-drink.) If we took a little money and put it into capital investment we could be a bit more like the Japanese. We could obtain our objective, not by cutting wages or lowering the standard of living, but by going back to work with Canadian tools, understanding and monetary self-restraint. When I refer to self-restraint I do not mean cutting back in business, cutting down union hours or holding back union wages. I mean that we should save and invest in our own future.

While I am on the subject, I wish to say it might be very dangerous to put in price and wage controls unless we are certain which sections of the economy will be affected by these controls. It would be fine to have control over those people who have been able to weasel out of the government a 30 per cent raise, but what about the poor devils who did not get a raise? What about the civil servants who are still working for disgraceful wages in a country as rich, prosperous and far-sighted as Canada is supposed to be? It would be a disgrace to peg their wages at present levels and do nothing about the runaway prices of the things they buy.

Some of the people who were screaming about pegging the wages no doubt wanted to have their additional 30 per cent, but leave in the lurch the other fellow who has not got his economy straightened out. We are receiving advice from some people we should listen to the least. This afternoon we heard a very interesting discourse on economics from no less than a doctor of economics at the University of Alberta. He is the type of man who says that members of parliament are overpaid. They would be overpaid if they were in attendance in this house only as often as he! He happens to be a millionaire and he