

*The Address—Mr. Winch*

this the government could have called a session in the fall, as was suggested by my leader, and there would not have been this unseemly haste at this particular time.

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, in rising in this, the second session of this parliament, to take part in the throne speech debate, perhaps I shall open up on a different basis from the previous speakers. It is not my intention to offer any congratulations whatsoever to the government on the throne speech. They are not entitled to any congratulations whatsoever. A great many words were taken up in the speech from the throne in telling the members of the House of Commons, in telling the members of the other place and in telling the people of Canada, what they already knew very well, of their own knowledge and through the medium of the press, of visits of royalty and certain honourable people to our country. Many words were used in telling us of legislation that was passed at the last session which we all knew about because we voted on it.

A very few words in the speech from the throne were devoted to telling us of the government's plans. Yes, they told us in a very few words of some legislation that we are going to have to deal with in the House of Commons: changes in unemployment insurance, in blind pensions, and in other matters. Most certainly, Mr. Speaker, we welcome the notification that this is going to be done. But, sir, it is not a matter for congratulation, although it is welcome, that at long last the government is going to do at this session what it should have done last session and sessions before that.

The major reason I cannot offer congratulations on the message we had at the opening of this session is that the speech from the throne will go down in Canada as notable for what it did not say, not what it said. Today Canada is facing a great many serious economic problems, and we cannot find anywhere what the intentions of this government are; we cannot find anyone to give any advice to the House of Commons as to how the government is going to tackle the major economic problems that are facing our Dominion of Canada; how they are going to tackle the serious agricultural problems of our nation; how, outside of public works, they are going to tackle the over-all problem of full employment in our country. No word has been given to us as to the meaning of the hush-hush meetings between the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the premier of Quebec on a financial agreement, instead of calling, as has been demanded all across

Canada, a meeting of all the provinces and the federal government on dominion-provincial financial relations.

On none of these things do we find any word of advice or prognostication, if I can put it that way, as to the government's approach to and study of these fundamental matters in the economy and politics of this dominion. It is because that is how I feel that I can appreciate very fully what the government are doing. They know very well that it is impossible to sell Canada on the government's record of accomplishment, of understanding or of vision, and on this I want to congratulate the government.

I do not know who the government's public relations officer is; but whoever he is, he is worth whatever he is paid, because when a government cannot stand on its record, or on its proposals, at the opening of parliament, there is one good thing to do, namely hide everything by building up an individual. In that respect, I want to congratulate the government. They are doing an excellent job. It is almost impossible to pick up a paper without finding not a government proposal but stories on "Uncle Louie".

I have had the privilege in the past year or so of meeting the Prime Minister for a matter of about only 30 seconds, but I have seen him often across the floor of the house and I honestly admit that I like him very much; I think he is a nice chap. But being a nice chap and the man we like, and seeing him in the papers with family groups, kissing babies, picking up a crying child in the station, is no answer at all to the problems of the Dominion of Canada. The answer is not in building up a man whom we adore as "Uncle Louie". It is in the government, in the speech from the throne and on the floor of this legislature, tackling the problems of the Dominion of Canada through the medium of policies and legislation.

In the weeks and months that lie before us we shall have the opportunity of speaking on numerous occasions; therefore on this occasion I am going to speak on only two or three aspects of our economy which I think are of importance. Admittedly they may seem a little repetitious but, sir, if repetition is required to get action, then it will have to be repetition. There is, without doubt, an unemployment situation in Canada. There are, without doubt, a number of unemployed who have no protection under municipal, provincial or federal law. I spoke on this last session and I am going to speak on it again. It is my humble opinion that the federal government is derelict in its responsibility to many in Canada who are without means at the present time.