

The Address—Mr. Bater

and Development (Mr. Winters) to get together and consider assisting the governments in western Canada to build this highway from Winnipeg to Edmonton along what is termed No. 5 highway. Make this highway into a real defence highway, and also a real link between the southeast and the great northwest. Highway No. 5 follows from the city of Saskatoon right through Battleford and North Battleford, then through the oil fields at Lloydminster and on to the great city of Edmonton, where there is also considerable oil. If you were to lay down a rule on the map of Canada from Edmonton to Winnipeg you would find that your straight line would pass through Battleford and North Battleford. Right at that point highway No. 4 crosses, coming up from Malta, Montana, through Swift Current, Biggar, Battleford and North Battleford, the gateway to the north, and on to Meadow Lake. This highway link is needed, not only for defence purposes but because of the great oil developments in this area.

I mentioned that something was being done about freight rates. Some of the opposition members from Saskatchewan have asked on different occasions what the Liberal members from that province have been doing in connection with this matter. I would remind them that the Liberal members from Saskatchewan have not been asleep. We have been quite active in connection with matters pertaining not only to western Canada but to all Canada, and we were active long before we ever came to Ottawa.

Since coming to Ottawa we have been very vocal about these things. Speaking of freight rates in particular, I remember that not long after the election of 1949 when we came to Ottawa, the first time for many of us, we got together about freight rates. The result was that a petition was forwarded to the board of transport commissioners asking them not to accept any recommendation that a change be made in the Crowsnest pass rates. That was the first thing we did on coming here to Ottawa for the fall session of 1949. That petition was sponsored and headed by the hon. member for Portage-Neepawa (Mr. Weir).

Before concluding I should like to say that I was advised yesterday by letter that one right hon. minister who is in the chamber at the present time has just completed thirty-seven years of continuous public service, not only for Saskatchewan but for Canada as a whole. I refer to the Right Hon. the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). I sincerely hope that he will continue to serve us for many more years.

[Mr. Bater.]

While our ship of state no doubt will encounter many storms on the national and international seas in the days that lie ahead, I have every confidence in our Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) as its commander, for I know he will chart a course through the storms which will bring her safely into port.

Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I am thoroughly in agreement with the wording of the Social Credit amendment concerning veterans affairs. I believe our veterans ought to be receiving a better deal than most of them are receiving at the present time. Sometime later I hope to go into more detail in respect of this matter, but today I trust that I shall be pardoned if I refrain from speaking on veterans affairs, in order to talk about another matter which I consider to be of urgent public importance to the people of Canada.

In my judgment the recent announcements concerning Britain's economic position justify considerable alarm on the part of all Canadians. That situation sets for Canada a challenge of the first magnitude. Canada's security is gravely threatened. Her future, her well-being is in serious danger, economically and in a military sense. Britain is in peril both economically and in a military sense. Peril to Britain is peril to North America, particularly to Canada—imminent peril. Britain is the keystone of the arch of security which Canada seeks to build up to shelter her; to shield her markets and to safeguard her shores.

Britain is the advance base of America's front line of defence. Upon Britain we must anchor our armies to the left and to the right, all across the world. Whatever threatens our advance base threatens our whole defence position. We must therefore attend to this matter with all our might—without hesitation or delay.

To those familiar with the facts this impending economic break-down of Britain has not been unexpected or unpredictable. It has been the inevitable result of several factors at work systematically, and I fear in large measure designedly, since as far back as 1890. I say designedly because I believe, as I said the other night, that there is a group of evil men exercising influence throughout the world who have for over sixty years been aiming at the destruction of the British commonwealth.

The rapidly growing industrialization in many parts of the world, in Germany and the United States particularly, the hot commercial rivalry and conflict emanating relentlessly from those two great nations, brought on disastrous world war I, with all its effects upon Britain, direct and indirect. Not the