

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

certain members of the N.D.P. and the Liberal party? Why are these things taking place?

We want the government to tell the people of Canada, on the basis of the information it now has, that there is going to be no more of this sabotage, this interference, this blackmail, if you will, practised against Canadian ships in United States ports when the new shipping season opens. These are some of the things on which we want to be assured.

I shall not deal with defence on this occasion, but I presume we will have the opportunity of doing so when further amendments are moved.

I now come to the question of the economy for, after all, this was the basic argument against the former government, that we had not kept the economy rolling. Well, what has happened? The Liberal party promised that if they were elected the deficit would become a surplus. Now they have become respectable. They promised that expenditures would be cut. Now the Minister of Finance says they have cut off \$200 million but expenditures are going to be greater than ever. They said taxes would be cut. Oh, I remember that speech. Taxes would be cut; yet they have been increased since this government came into power by over \$300 million. Every Canadian, they said, would soon be working; and there are almost 500,000 out of work now.

What would hon. gentlemen opposite say if they were over here? They were the ones who claimed they had the solution for these problems. They said they had the planners and the planning. Last session they produced a speech from the throne with something for everyone. However, by the time we came to the end of it, most of it was grounded or abandoned. The program in the last speech from the throne looked good but did not stand up. This one does not even look good. Where is the bold and imaginative action which the Prime Minister promised? Oh, the right hon. gentleman is most effective when he gets to use expressions such as that. What we need for Canada, he said, is bold and imaginative action. I can just hear him. Well, where is this bold and purposeful action? Where is there a declaration of anything in this speech from the throne apart from a faltering announcement of cloudy intentions? It is a strange thing. This is a government that likes to be loved. They are afraid to ask lest they offend. They are afraid not to promise for fear they also offend. The result is that they end by producing the document which is before us.

Where is there anything in this speech from the throne, with the exception of one line, to deal with the preservation of confederation and the advancement of modern Canada? Where is there anything in this

mixture of shopworn nostrums to indicate any measures to meet unemployment or inflation and the rising cost of living? Where is there, in this tally of a tired government, anything to rectify the loss of investment capital from abroad or to provide for alternative sources?

Where is there anything in this plan to provide for national development. Let us turn to Frobisher. Jurisdictional arguments are going on between departments of government, and while they continue Frobisher fails to receive attention. What about northern Canada, represented by the hon. members for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), Northwest Territories (Mr. Rheame) and Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski)? Northern development is to all intents and purposes, a thing of the past. What about the Gaspé railway in the province of Quebec, so greatly desired by so many people for so long? The legislation is there, but the government refuses to go ahead. Where is there anything in this speech which shows an interest in the real problems of our country? Where is there anything to ensure that the legislation introduced this session will not be the rudderless mess of last session?

What about agriculture? The minister is not here. I am not surprised. While he is outside the house, what is happening to the price of Canadian cattle? What is being done to ensure the maintenance of cattle exports? I have the figures available in this connection, figures to which I shall make reference. Our exports have fallen to levels unheard of in the last six years, and this has happened in the past seven or eight months. What about prices? What about the decline in the price of cattle by about 5 cents a pound? While these things are happening the Minister of Agriculture is addressing what he says are more intelligent audiences. He refers to the Herefords. But what is being done? I ask the government, what course is to be followed? Is there any action, within the knowledge of the government, which can be taken? The answer is that if there is anything it does not appear in the speech from the throne.

What about the record of the economy? I am not here to preach blue ruin. We have not followed that course, and do not intend to. I am glad to see any economic gains that are taking place. But I would point out that what has taken place has not been the result of the policies of the present government, but the result of policies brought in by the previous government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: My hon. friend the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), who is now removed from anything of