

The Address—Mr. Hees

One source of friction encountered in places in Canada where Canadians of both expressions meet every day is the fact that a bilingual person is usually a French speaking Canadian who speaks both languages. This can be partly due to the fact that many English speaking citizens did not learn French early enough at school or did not learn it on a practical basis or in some cases did not learn it at all. This is perhaps due to a shortage of French teachers. In any event, we should not be overly interested in apportioning the blame. But we should all be very much interested in a solution.

It is common knowledge that the best time to learn a second language is very early in life. In fact, young children in Europe learn many languages early in school and remain fluent in these languages throughout their lives. There is a proposal now being launched in my home town of Campbellton to teach French to English speaking children in elementary schools beginning in grade one. That proposition is receiving the support of the community.

May I quote extracts from a front page editorial in the *Campbellton Graphic* dated February 11, 1965, in support of the proposal.

The French program for English classes in elementary schools of this province is mid-Victorian in its approach and has failed miserably to accomplish its purpose—to teach English students to speak and write French.

Lingualists agree that the time to teach another language to children is when they are very young. They also agree that being able to speak another language is all important and that the grammatical side of the language can be instituted in later years.

Perhaps never before has it been so important to be able to speak French. For years our French-speaking friends have pointed out that if we English citizens could speak their language our understanding of their culture would lead to greater unity and a truly united Canada. We feel that French citizens here will strongly support this proposal toward bilingualism.

I am very pleased to commend the *Graphic* and the people of my community for their forwardlooking endeavour. I believe that if the same program could be carried out throughout Canada, and especially in areas where Canadians of both cultures live together, the next generation would be much better equipped than we are today to deal with our common Canadian problems. And if we love our country and our children, now is the time to make the decision.

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin by congratulating the Speaker of the House of Commons and you, Your Honour, on your

[Mr. Dubé.]

appointments and by joining with the many other members who have already congratulated the proposer and seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. They have done excellent jobs and, as one who is making his maiden speech for the second time, I know just what they went through. I commend them heartily for their able efforts. Today I should like to speak about our economy generally, and then about some things that are badly needed in the county of Northumberland, which I have the honour to represent.

Two things which can seriously check a country's economic progress are, first of all, a situation in which a country finds itself spending considerably more outside its borders than it is taking in, and, second, a tight money policy. This country today is experiencing both of these situations. In the past, Canada has been able to handle reasonable imbalances in its external account by attracting large volumes of foreign capital for investment here. However, when an imbalance becomes excessively large, positive steps then have to be taken to correct this. That time has been reached today.

In the first nine months of 1965, and these are the latest figures available to us, this country paid out \$754 million more than it received. This compares with a deficit balance of only \$272 million for the same nine month period of 1964, which was, of course, only about one third of the amount of our imbalance during the first nine months of 1965. At this rate, when we observe our year-end figures, after they appear around the middle of March, we can fully expect to find that during 1965 we will have spent about \$1 billion more outside this country than other countries have spent in Canada. If the rate of acceleration of 1965 over 1964 continues, we may easily find at the end of the present year that we will have spent some \$2 billion more outside Canada than we will have taken in. This is clearly a very serious situation indeed and one which requires immediate action.

One thing which could help correct this serious imbalance is an increase in our commodity exports. Faced with a similar situation in 1960, the government, of which I was a member, did several things to bring about that kind of a correction. I commend them to the minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) who was not in the house then, and may not be familiar with the steps we took to increase exports at that time.