

*Speech from the Throne*

The riding of Bruce consists of the whole of Bruce county and what is known as the northern part of western Ontario. It also includes five townships in the county of Grey along with the town of Hanover. While there are several good sized towns, it can certainly be described as a rural riding. I am sure that every member of the House of Commons is proud of the area that he or she represents. I, too, have that pride, and it is even greater today than usual, not simply because I have been asked to give this speech, but because of the several great things that are taking place in the riding itself.

The huge Douglas Point project is the largest single piece of construction work that is going on in Canada at the present time. When it is completed, the sum of \$1.5 billion will have been spent on construction work alone.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** You are in the wrong House.

**Mr. Whicher:** This includes the largest heavy water plant of its type in the world, one that we all hope will work and not end up in the tragic circumstances in which the one in Nova Scotia now finds itself.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whicher:** To complement this plant, which is being constructed for Atomic Energy of Canada, Ontario Hydro is building a three million kilowatt nuclear power station. To illustrate the vastness of this power station may I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the total energy requirements of the whole of Ontario 15 years ago were about six million kilowatts. Many hundreds of workers are at this very moment working on both of these projects which, when they are completed, will mean so much to the development of Ontario and indeed to Canada as a whole.

Many of the members here today are fully conversant with the fact that Canada is putting a telecommunications satellite into the atmosphere during the next year or so. Like our American friends, who have tracking stations all over the world in order to send men into space we, too, must have stations all over Canada to receive information and to send information to the satellite many miles in space. The significance of this operation is the fact that the command station for the whole operation is now being constructed at Allan Park, just east of Hanover, in the riding of Bruce, and many millions of dollars are being spent there.

Like many rural communities in Canada, up until only a few months ago, we were serviced by only one television station. Last year, however, we were successful in having CKCO of Kitchener build a satellite station north of Warton, and now most of the riding is privileged to have alternate viewing.

• (1410)

Many hon. members will appreciate the fact that, over the past several years, I have been keenly interested in the agricultural problems of Canada.

**Mr. Peters:** I haven't noticed it.

**Mr. Whicher:** There has been a good reason for this. We are primarily an agricultural area. Proudly, we lay claim to the fact that we are the beef capital of Canada, and

[Mr. Whicher.]

right at this moment there are approximately 255,000 beef cattle being fed in the County of Bruce alone, plus many more thousands that are in the Grey part of the riding. Besides beef cattle, our farmers are extensively engaged in the dairy industry and in the feeding of hogs and poultry. We are a tourist area, too, and Bruce County alone has over 200 miles of shoreline on the Great Lakes. Thousands of cottagers, both Canadian and American, make their summer home with us, and are most welcome. Our rural communities and small towns are most pleasant places to live, and most of the residents prefer these communities to the more populated areas in Ontario.

Lumbering was a great industry in years gone by and because of that fact many furniture factories started in the various towns of the riding. Many of them, whose names are known across the length of Canada, are still producing an excellent quality.

But I did not come here today to speak solely of the great riding of Bruce. I come, Mr. Speaker, to lay the cards on the table, as I see them, relating to the problems and disappointments with which this government is faced, along with the many good things that have been accomplished by the same government.

**An hon. Member:** Tell us about the unemployment insurance situation.

**Mr. Whicher:** For example, no one can deny the unhappy circumstances in which many of our unemployed find themselves today.

**An hon. Member:** You are right.

**Mr. Whicher:** It makes us all sad; not just members of the opposition, but indeed every single member of the Liberal caucus.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Whicher:** We will see how much you fellows shout in the next few minutes.

May I say with all the emphasis at my command that I am proud of this government that had the gumption to tackle that horrible parasite known as inflation, because if it had not there would have been a million Canadians unemployed now instead of the still tragic figure of 650 thousand. This must be the main objective of this government. The number one priority is to get these people back to work while at the same time keeping inflation under control as much as possible, in order that we may continue exporting billions of dollars worth of goods, because, on a population basis, this country has the highest rate of exports of any country in the world.

My greatest criticism of this government, however, is the fact that it has not sold to the Canadian people the many good things that it has accomplished since coming into office.

**Mr. Bell:** Explain.

**Mr. Whicher:** Last Sunday evening I heard an official spokesman for the Conservative party speak on "The Nation's Business". I will not name him here. As a matter of fact, I strongly suspect that the Tory party will want to