

The Address—Mr. Milne

and honour to have been elected by people with such diverse interests and such diverse endeavours. Through you, I want to thank all those who supported me and elected me. I want to say to the people of Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe that I will represent them as fairly and as energetically as I possibly can.

Perhaps of all the attributes the riding of Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe has, the greatest is its people. I am honoured to have a group of young people in the gallery today who have shown a marked interest in the political process. I hope they will maintain that interest, and my fondest hope is that one of them will have the privilege which I enjoy today of entering this chamber and addressing it for the first time.

I think I was a little bit younger than any of them when I first became interested in politics and made the decision that I would pursue a political career if I had the opportunity. A great influence in my life was a relative of my father's who became the first woman ever to sit in this chamber, Agnes MacPhail. If I can even achieve a percentage of the effect on the social and economic reforms in this country that she did, then my time here will be well spent. I share the feeling she expressed that perhaps the most awesome moment in her life was when she rose to address this chamber for the first time.

I should like to congratulate the cabinet, and particularly the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), on the Speech from the Throne. I think it addresses the key issues as they are seen by the people of Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe.

A good deal of the emphasis was on the economy and the inflationary factors within it. I was particularly glad to see that the Prime Minister indicated an intention to bring forth a budget at the earliest possible time. It is my view that most of the things that can be done about inflation can be done through the budget. I agree with the government's basic approach to inflation, that of applying every means possible to increasing the supply of goods and services to meet demand, and taking steps to lessen the impact of inflation upon those who can least afford it. I hope this parliament will very soon introduce legislation which will allow the government to take steps to stop profiteering.

I am very pleased that in the Speech from the Throne there was no indication of a move that would stall the economy. If we have to suffer anything I think it is better to suffer inflation than to stall the economy and end up with both unemployment and inflation, as has happened in so many other countries.

I was also glad to see in the Speech from the Throne two things that are very important to the people of my riding; the intention to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act and the intention to give continued attention to effective government spending. People are concerned about the Unemployment Insurance Act, particularly those provisions which allow payment of benefits to people who voluntarily leave their employment or leave because of bad conduct. As many people know, I have been critical of the Unemployment Insurance Act and I am glad to see that amendments are proposed.

In the time at my disposal this afternoon, Madam Speaker, I want to speak about two of the key items in the

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Speech from the Throne, matters that will face Canada over the next 25 to 30 years. These are the questions of energy and food production. In my view any country that is not essentially self-sufficient in food and self-sufficient in energy does not have a very rosy future.

Any country that is essentially self-sufficient in energy and in food must have a lower level of inflation and a lower level of unemployment than others. It will have very strong industrial base and most certainly will show leadership in the world in the future. If you question that, Madam Speaker, I ask you to compare our economy and its inflation and unemployment with some other countries that are short of either energy or food, and you will find that some of them have inflation far beyond 30 per cent. I think we are very fortunate because there are probably less than half a dozen countries as self-sufficient in food and energy as is Canada.

We heard a lot about the energy situation, last year. It was a common topic in the newspapers and media, and I suppose even in this chamber was spoken of more than any other subject. This great debate on energy is far from over, Madam Speaker. We must remember that by the turn of the century our need for energy will be 2½ times as great as it is today. Let us pause and reflect on that.

I should like to congratulate the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) on his capable handling of the crisis last year and to wish him well for the future. Many of the decisions that he and the government and this House must take will be more important to the future of the country than any other issues I can visualise.

Only 5½ years from now, in 1980, the United States will import as much oil as they will produce domestically. In terms of today's dollars it will cost them \$25 billion to \$30 billion, that is, if they can get it. Just think what that will do to their balance of payments position. In terms of the energy crisis I think one of the greatest threats to Canada is the possibility of importing countries becoming protectionist in order to guard their balance of payments. Ontario exports two-thirds of its energy to the United States, so that is a good market.

Something else that concerns me, Madam Speaker, is the ownership of our uranium resources. I was glad to see the government express an intention in the Speech from the Throne to do something about this problem. I was equally delighted to hear the government announce that there will be guidelines and policy introduced regarding the amount of uranium we should allow to be exported from Canada. The policy will take into account our long term needs. I think all Canadians can stand a little taller because of the tremendous success of CANDU. I think all in this House are proud of its success.

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Generally, our use of energy is increasing. Petroleum use has grown by 4 per cent, and the use of electrical energy by 7 per cent. This shows that we are shifting away from the use of petroleum and placing more reliance on electricity. Ontario, which now produces much electrical energy, will use more in the future. It is quite conceivable that by about 1990 half the electrical energy used in Ontario will be derived from uranium. Uranium energy