

The Address—Mr. Coates

There is no question but that parliament can enact legislation permitting the establishment of a national agency with powers relative to marketing in interprovincial and export trade. I trust that communications are now being conducted with the provinces directed to the matter of agreement whereby the provinces will delegate their authority to regulate marketing within their jurisdictions to a national marketing agency, so that such an agency would have the undoubted authority—and again I underline that this would be exercised only where the particular producer group requested it—to obtain the benefits which would flow from the marketing of some commodities on a national basis.

I have been privileged to deal with some of the items which to me seemed to be of importance in the throne speech, such as the Canada pension plan, the university student loan plan and the new ministry of forestry and rural development. Also, Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to refer to an important part of a program for parliament that I would like to see mentioned in the throne speech, provision for national marketing boards and co-operatives.

In closing I want to remind hon. members, though I know they need no reminding, that tomorrow night they will have an opportunity to vote on the amendment moved by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. As the hon. member for Medicine Hat has said, this is a vote of confidence. If this minority government is defeated, it will be forced to submit its fate to the voters of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Honey: Hon. members opposite say "hear, hear". I think that the people of Canada would not say "hear, hear". I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that for the many reasons that have been mentioned in this debate, the many items which appear in the throne speech and the performance of the government to date in this parliament, the government by and large commends itself to the majority of Canadians. In the vote tomorrow night it is my sincere hope that hon. members will reflect what I deem to be and submit to the house is the general feeling of the people of Canada, that they would like to see the government permitted to complete its parliamentary program.

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise at this time to take part in the throne speech debate. First of all I want to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne on the delivery of their speeches. That does not necessarily mean that I agree with everything they said, but

at the same time I think they acquitted themselves well and their party should be proud of them.

I think I will take the liberty of reflecting to a degree on what has gone on in the past, although with the Liberal government of the day this does not seem to be a popular approach. They say to us "Forget what has gone on in the past. Know us by what we say we will do in the future". I think the Canadian people elected them on what they said they would do in the future, and I am very doubtful that they would re-elect them on what they have done since taking office.

I go back to the 1962 and 1963 campaigns, and I recall the great slogans they put forward. "Vote for us. We have all the answers. Take a stand for tomorrow". I liken those slogans of yesterday to the passage in Shakespeare's "Macbeth" that commences with the words, "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow" and ends with the words, "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing". That is all we have got from the Liberal party.

Then we look at the lacklustre list of legislation contained in the throne speech, which only took 11 minutes to deliver, the legislation that is supposed to be the answer to the ills that are facing Canada at the present time. When I think of that and of the boldness and the 60 days of decision that began the last session; when I recall the budget that eliminated tradition which was brought down by the Minister of Finance, and think of the Minister of Finance today, who must be assembling the budget he is going to propose in the near future, I am reminded of a passage in John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" which I think probably describes the Minister of Finance very well today. I am only going to read a short passage. It is titled "The Den and the Dreamer" and reads as follows:

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where there was a den; and I laid me down in that place to sleep; and as I slept I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and behold I saw a man clothed with rags, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back. I looked, and saw him open the book and read therein; and as he read he wept and trembled; and, not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, What shall I do?

The Canadian people, Mr. Speaker, are saying "What will he do?" Certainly the people in the building industry are saying "What will he do?" In fact I imagine every taxpayer in Canada is saying "What will he do?"

I think one of the things that is missing from the list of lamentable legislation that will be placed on the order paper as a result