

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

say is that they receive very considerable space in the press of our country.

Strange things are taking place within the mounted police. Some kind of auxiliary force is being set up. Parliament has not heard about this auxiliary force, said to number 800. We have not been told what it is to do and where it is to do it. We have been given no information. Why should parliament not have this information? Is it true that a body of extra mounties who will operate as irregulars has been set up?

I was amazed that the minister should have refused to answer today. He said he would make a statement in due course. Well, it is either true or it is not. If this is not taking place, why did he not answer? It is just in keeping with his attitude toward parliament as a former senior civil servant. That is what it is, disrespect; and disrespect which we as an opposition intend to expose to the glare of publicity.

I should add to what I have said about the changes which may be contemplated in our procedure, that if changes are to be made—and there have always been criticisms of parliament all through the ages—they must be made after full discussion in this house. I repeat what I said earlier, in effect. This institution, which means more to me than any other institution in our land, which is the embodiment of the concept of freedom, must not in any way be hampered by rules which are archaic. But rules should not be removed simply because they have been with us for a long time; they should only be removed or altered where there is reason for doing so.

Coming now to the speech from the throne, let me say this is a remarkable document in many ways. Scattered through the speech are old familiar friends who have been in previous speeches, the ghosts of good intentions in the government's past. Railroad legislation is now promised. It was promised last year and, I think, the year before. In the new session legislation will be brought down regarding Canadian magazines and Canadian publications. It used to be Canadian periodicals; now it is Canadian publications, which includes newspapers. We are promised bank amendment legislation, another old friend. All these things are in the speech from the throne.

I intend to refer in some detail to the various programs which have been here before. Reforming the procedure of the house is a subject that has been spoken of over and over again. Then it is said:

• (3:30 p.m.)

A measure to establish an age of retirement from the Senate will be placed before you.

I do not think anybody in the other place is going to be very frightened because, sir, last year this was on the order paper entitled "A measure to establish an age of retirement from the Senate". Then I mentioned the railways. This year it says:

You will be asked to consider comprehensive legislation to reform public regulation of the railways...recapitalization of the Canadian National Railways; and amendments to the Aeronautics Act.

We were told that last year. Much is made of the fact that a measure will be placed before the house to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act in order to ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born. That was there last year, too.

As far as our farmers are concerned, Mr. Speaker, I notice that the Minister of Agriculture is not here, because after all he does not like parliament. He says he cannot understand this place, but he does think one of the prerequisites of a good education would be to serve in a cabinet for a while, where you would realize what it was to be "buffaloed". This was in a speech he gave the other day. With regard to agriculture it is said:

My government is developing new policies to enable farmers generally to achieve larger and more reliable incomes so that their living and working standards will be comparable to those enjoyed in other sectors of our economy. You will be asked to consider measures of special assistance to the family farm in both eastern and western Canada.

Last year the promise was:

A measure will be placed before you to provide for a minister responsible for rural development, in order that my government may carry further its policy of giving increased attention to the needs of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada. You will be asked to consider other measures to assist in the improvement of farms and of farm income.

It is just a little different wording but the same old promise which is placed in this compendium, which has all the earmarks of election propaganda.

Mr. Nielsen: They have forgotten the \$2 wheat.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then with regard to election expenses, this year they are going to make proposals with regard to the limitation and payment of election expenses, provided the findings of the committee of inquiry are received. Last year the com-