

quality food for the Canadian people; second, reasonable prices, for the consumer as well as for the producer, as regards all foodstuffs produced in this country; and third, a continuing supply and increasing production of those food products in which Canada has a competitive advantage for export to commercial markets, and also for a contribution to international food aid programs; for the producer, the provision of a fair income for his work, and for the consumer a fair value for his dollar and protection against disruptive increases in the price of essential foodstuffs. Guarantees against unduly low prices to producers must be coupled with guarantees against unduly high prices to consumers. There must be continuity of domestic supply through optimum overall land use in Canada while taking into account the trend to diversify productive land for non-agricultural purposes.

Furthermore, to achieve adequate supplies of food at reasonable cost, the following measures directed in the main at increasing food production are proposed: guaranteed loans and other forms of assistance to farmers and fishermen to enable them to purchase or modernize their equipment; amendments to the Export and Import Permits Act to provide the government with better means to stabilize the Canadian market; increased availability of manpower for food production; some assistance in the construction of new storage facilities; research to make it possible to increase production, improve quality, and lower costs; improvements in harbour facilities to be used by fishing fleets; incentives to increase Canada's catch of unexploited stocks of fish; advance payments on crops to assure producers of timely cash receipts; an agricultural stabilization plan to encourage rational production decisions; financial incentives for young farmers; better veterinary training facilities; a prairie grain market insurance plan; improvements in Canadian grain rail transportation capabilities; increased availability of reasonably priced feed grains; finally, incentives to increase the production of livestock necessary to provide for Canadian and export markets.

Honourable senators, the legislative program also contains measures to aid small businesses both financially and by providing better counselling services, and by the creation of a Federal Business Development Bank.

In addition to the encouragement given to the development of the petrochemical industry, the government will propose amendments to the Bank Act to pave the way for provincial participation in the ownership of banks.

The government also proposes to draw up a national scientific policy, which I mentioned a while ago, as well as a national transportation policy to promote regional growth, including the elimination of any discrimination in freight rates, and a port policy based on the highest possible local involvement in management and improvement of ports.

To that general outline of the legislation can be added the policy for the development of urban transportation, the relocation of railway lines and stations in many cities and towns, which I also mentioned a while ago, as well as a policy aimed at providing Canadians with proper housing in a pleasant environment at a reasonable price.

What is more striking in this vast legislative program, honourable senators, is the number of references to con-

[Hon. Mr. Langlois.]

sultation with the provinces for the development and implementation of these various policies. Indeed, a hasty examination of the Speech from the Throne reveals no fewer than eight direct references to the desire to consult, co-operate, make arrangements or otherwise confer intimately with all other government levels in Canada. This wish for co-operation is very significant in my opinion, and shows the complexity of the anticipated legislation. It is to be hoped that the central power will be able to open these discussions and exchanges in such a way as to obtain the full co-operation of all provincial and municipal governments in Canada.

Honourable senators, this is vital for the welfare of Canadians and the future of our country.

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. M. Grattan O'Leary: Honourable senators, my first words, surely, must be to congratulate Canada upon securing Mr. Jules Léger as our Governor General. Mr. Léger is an old newspaper colleague of mine, whose recent past in the service of the state has been marked by distinction and good renown. I do not know whether honourable senators realize it or not, but when Shakespeare wrote King Lear he merely made the mistake of dropping the "y". Although a descendant of Irish kings, I must confess at once I am not a passionate monarchist, but I will say this: if we can get representatives of the Crown of the calibre and character of Mr. Léger, I think we would do well to go along with the monarchy.

I must also congratulate the Senate and Canada, too, upon your continued presence with us, Madam Speaker. All parties in this house and all persons in this house feel inspired by your gentle wisdom, your dignity and your dedication to your office. My wish would be, no matter what happens in the future—and you know the sort of thing I wish would happen—that you remain with us regardless.

I would like to say a word, too, in congratulating the mover and seconder of the Address in reply. They had a very difficult job. Personally, I would not have liked the task of having to condone, let alone defend, what was given us and called the Speech from the Throne. We call these pronouncements Speeches from the Throne, but actually what we were given here was merely a formula for survival. Arthur Meighen once said in the House of Commons that if he had a project dear to his heart, the worst fate he could fear for it would be that some day it might get into a Liberal platform. For myself, I think I can say that the worst fate I fear for anything dear to my heart would be for it to be included in a Liberal Speech from the Throne.

I listened last evening to two great debating speakers. I thought the speech made by my leader, Senator Flynn, in penetration, in eloquence, in relevance and in passion was a great parliamentary performance.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: I am afraid that an imperative call of age compelled me to leave the chamber while Senator Martin was speaking, but I read his speech this morning, and I did so with continued admiration for his gigantic