

Speech from the Throne

—as if that period was already behind us—

—of international economic uncertainty which affected all of the industrialized nations of the world and which has made us increasingly aware of our dependence on a strong economic base in the pursuit of our social goals.

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what Social Credit says in British Columbia, in Alberta, and everywhere else in Canada.

I returned yesterday from Saskatchewan, where I met people from Regina and Saskatoon—both Liberal and Progressive Conservative supporters. I even met a provincial member of the NDP, which is in power in Saskatchewan, who said to me: Economy foundations and the structure of the economy have to be improved and altered if we are to reach our social goals.

Our social goals are simple: We are merely asking for a peaceful life in a country as rich as ours. Allow me to quote here Pius XI who in 1931, in the encyclical letter entitled "Quadragesimo Anno", clearly defined the goals of a properly organized economy.

This was exactly 41 years ago. I am sure the Prime Minister remembers that time, like everyone else now over fifty. Pius XI said:

The economy will be healthily constituted and will fully reach its goal only when it gives each and every individual a share of the goods which nature and industry can provide. And this share will have to be sufficient to give each and everyone at least honest affluence.

This does not mean taking from the "haves" to give to the "have-nots", but all will at least be entitled to honest affluence. This is the aim which Cr ditistes have set for themselves in their task of education of the masses.

Mr. Speaker, it also says in the Speech from the Throne:

Every one of us is enriched through involvement in this stimulating process we call Canada.

We are all a bit poorer than we were but the Speech from the Throne tells us that we are enriched by it.

Our goals and hopes are bound up in the restlessness and vitality of this rich land.

Restlessness! Go anywhere in Canada and you will find restlessness! Perhaps on the treasury benches, but surely everywhere else in Canada. Businessmen are faced with huge problems. The unemployed do not know where to turn to. Our families are weighed down by a feeling of hopelessness. Our young people are rebelling against a society in which they feel they cannot be integrated. So they are ready to do anything to "break" a society which will not allow them to become part of it. In short, restlessness prevails.

The Speech from the Throne then goes on to mention the vitality of this rich land. Mr. Speaker, the land is rich, but insofar as vitality is concerned, it is quite paralyzed. During the weekend, I met people from Saskatchewan who were asking me what the federal government intends to do to prevent our industries from closing. I told them that I would inquire. The government is being asked the same thing about the plants which are closing in Quebec, in the Maritimes, in Alberta and even in northern Ontario.

While the Prime Minister praises the prosperity in Canada over radio and television, the Canadian International Paper announces that it will close its T misingue plant next May 30 and lay off 875 workers

[Mr. Caouette.]

directly involved in its operation. At the same time, at Sudbury, we hear about an increase in the rate of employment while the International Nickel announces the layoff of 2,000 workers. SOMA, which does the assembly of Renault cars, announces the layoff of its workers and the temporary closure of its plants.

Some ten days ago, I was in Kapuskasing, where the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co. Ltd. will, within a few weeks, substantially curtail its production to perhaps only two or three days a week. Yet the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) recently stated in Bathurst while addressing 5,000 people: Paper does not sell. Forget about a mill, you will not get one. What alternative solution is there? I do not know. We have been told to seek one. Let us go on searching and in the meantime the number of recorded unemployed has reached over 700,000. Those are the ones with a tag on their ear. The figures do not include the unrecorded ones as we now actually have over a million unemployed in Canada. Yet the Prime Minister mentions "the vitality of this rich land". We could indeed have that vitality if we had an economic system wherein it would be possible to create it so that each Canadian citizen might participate in the development of the vast resources of our country, of our rich land.

The Speech from the Throne goes on to say, and I quote:

We in this place have a special responsibility to help bring these goals and those hopes within reach, to make real the Canada of which our forefathers dreamed:

An hon. Member: We have here the required writing ability—

Mr. Caouette: That is right. We have a writer skilled in rhetoric, in phraseology such as we have been reading and hearing over a number of years.

• (1220)

The common inheritance has almost been completely dilapidated. That is so true that if we go back to the early days of the colony, we find people who have just settled on the shores of the majestic St. Lawrence River. But has anyone realized that today, after eight or ten generations, the land handed down from father to son is now in the hands of farmers who depend on provincial or federal farm credit programs? The land was inherited from our forefathers, yes, but the governments, through a barbaric financial system, have dilapidated the heritage bequeathed to us by our ancestors.

Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne, once again the theme of economic security is mentioned, and I quote: Economic security is one of the most effective forces with which to counter social isolation.

Here again is an expression that was launched years ago when we were told that the economic system should be improved. There is talk of reform, of possible achievements in Canada. Yet, nothing is suggested, no means whereby to give the Canadian people the administration, the economic system that would allow them to feel completely at home.

Mr. Speaker, here is something else we can read in the Speech from the Throne: