

*The Address—Mr. Lambert*

and another for Ontario with 85 seats. The Newfoundland commission may be able to accomplish its work in a relatively short time but its report will not be able to be considered until the Ontario and Quebec commissions have finished their work. So why not bring the work together? All of the commissioners would then be working in the same group and with the same ground rules.

I have some reservations as to the future with regard to departures from the same ground rules and I think we must consider redistribution on the basis of the same yardstick from one end of the country to the other. As I have indicated previously, I do not think that the answer to some of the problems of redistribution should be an increase in the membership of the house. This house is big enough as it is. It might be that some would consider that the presence of certain members is less desirable than that of others, but that is a personal point of view.

We have not yet heard from the Minister of Labour or the Minister of National Revenue as to the results of the \$500 bonus for the winter construction of homes. This program does not end, of course, until March 31, but I would say this artificial impetus, which has promoted a lot of housing starts during the winter, must be considered as an experiment. It has certainly caused many dislocations. It has caused dislocation in the free supply of materials. There are shortages of certain key materials. It has caused a dislocation of inventories among the building supply industries. There has been a shortage of certain types of skills because all electricians or all plasterers or all bricklayers are required at one time. Everybody is required at the same time.

The work force of this country is set up to handle a year round pattern of construction. I admit that this scheme is in the nature of an experiment but we must recognize that it has caused certain dislocations. Certainly there is a surplus of houses and we are going to see some of the results of this in April and May when I think we will be in for a shock brought about by a vastly reduced number of housing starts. In addition, I hope no hon. member has been trying to sell a house without the \$500 bonus because anyone who has tried to do so has been faced with difficult competition.

I see that my time has expired, Mr. Speaker. I have quite a number of other remarks to make which I can make on other occasions. I regret I cannot answer the questions of hon. members.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Lambert:** Well, it is open to them to do the same as I have. I had a certain amount [Mr. Lambert.]

of ground to cover and I hope we can discuss this matter further on other occasions.

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should like to associate myself with those who have expressed congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, and also to those who are accepting responsibility within the cabinet or moving to other portfolios. I should like as well at this time to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. member for Cariboo relative to the necessary changes in the rules which guide the deliberations in this house. I am not going to take time today to refer to them individually, but merely to commend them to the consideration of the government and to members of the house.

In the course of this debate many members have considered, and rightly so, problems of national and international importance. I believe that the issues confronting us today are such as require cool and careful thought and action. We trust that in the near future the problems that tend to divide will be resolved so that we can get ahead with the task of building a greater and a better Canada.

Today, I should like to confine my remarks to about three main issues, two of which are of more or less local concern, while the third, although it has local application, is of national interest and concern as well. I should like, first of all, to call the attention of the house to the situation that exists in the particular riding which I represent, and which exists also in the ridings of some other members. I refer to the situation existing along the Fraser river. The hon. member for Kootenay West dealt at length yesterday with the problems of the Columbia river. Flowing through my constituency, we have the mighty Fraser. While this river has a tremendous potential, it also produces a number of problems that are of real concern to the authorities and to the residents of the lower mainland of British Columbia. I have before me, Mr. Speaker, an interim report of an investigation into measures of flood control in the Fraser river basin. I should like to call attention to the first two paragraphs of this report because I believe they set out very clearly the problem that faces us. I quote:

The mountain and plateau areas of the Fraser river basin hold vast winter reservoirs of snow which in most years contain a flood potential to threaten the developed areas of the lower reaches of the river. In early spring the runoff commences and the streams and rivers of the Fraser river system, which drains some 83,000 square miles of British Columbia, unite in the tortuous Fraser canyon before breaking through the coast mountains into the rich and densely settled lower Fraser valley. From Hope to the strait of Georgia