

The Address—Mr. MacLean

about \$39 billion. That is a three-fold increase in that short period of time. We have set in play many programs which by themselves inevitably will expand in cost at a perhaps uncontrollable rate. The Economic Council of Canada, for instance, said this year that the expenditures of all governments on health and education would, at their present rate of increase and at the present level of taxation, account for all available government funds—that is, take up the whole budget—within little more than a decade, leaving nothing over for many other services government is expected to provide.

I want to make perfectly clear that I do not condemn education or government expenditures on welfare and public health. We must realize, however, that our resources have some limit and that therefore we must use our resources in the best possible way and that we must have priorities. These priorities should be based on the value received for the expenditures made. Mention was made in the quotation to which I referred of government restraints on business, especially the statement made by the President of the Metro Toronto Board of Trade. When one conjures up government restraints on huge corporations the average man in the street will say, what is the matter with that. That is not my concern. I think large corporations are in a position to deal with these restraints in a fairly efficient manner. My concern is the effect that all these government demands and restraints has on small businesses. They make it almost impossible for the person who is self-employed and who wishes to contribute to the production of the country as a whole to do so in an efficient manner.

I have visited little operations in my constituency in Prince Edward Island. These are operations which manufacture some item or other such as perhaps some phase of the lumber business. It might be a little operation involving a man, his wife and perhaps two other employed persons. At the end of every month they have to send in forms and statements to eight departments of government, including federal and provincial. For them this is a chore and a hindrance. It causes them to wonder whether the whole thing is worthwhile and whether perhaps they might be better off if they were in the position of employees. It seems to me that in the last number of years governments have become so preoccupied with reallocating our wealth that they have ignored its production and the best climate in which the production of wealth and the good life might be possible.

It is said that humans differ from animals because of the fact that humans have the capacity to anticipate the future and have a concept of time and therefore are able to adapt to and cope with the future. As I look at this government day after day, on the basis of that harsh definition it would seem to me it hardly qualifies. It barely qualifies because there is a horrible lack of appreciation of the trends that have been set in motion in this country in the last few years, trends of geometric progressions which if they doubled every 50 years, let alone every ten years, would mean that some day we would reach the point where something has to go bust.

To illustrate what I am saying I might be forgiven if I once again refer to the fable of the stupid stable boy who was sent with a horse to be shod. The fable is in pounds

[Mr. MacLean.]

and pence, but in order to simplify it I will put it in dollars and cents. The blacksmith said: "The charge is \$5, but if you prefer I will give you a special deal. I will let you pay just one penny for the first of the 32 nails in the set of horseshoes, and you can pay for it now. Next week you can pay for the second nail, which will be two cents. The third week you can pay for the third nail, four cents". The stupid stableboy thought he was on to a great deal so he took it on. He went back to the man he was working for and told him what a great deal he had had from the blacksmith.

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His boss was, of course, able to point out to him: "Yes, you are all right for this week and next week, and after six weeks you will pay 32 cents for the sixth nail. Then it starts to get tough. At the end of 16 weeks you will pay for the sixteenth nail \$327.68; for the 24th nail you will pay \$83,886.08; and by the time you get to the last nail in the set, the thirty-second nail, you will pay \$21,474,836.48".

This is the kind of course on which the government has embarked. It is acting like a stupid stableboy. Every year it embarks on some expenditure, some course of action, that has built into it an exponential curve that will create terrible difficulties for the government in its present life span—which will be short—and certainly for the Canadian people in the days ahead, unless action is taken well in advance. This is why I say that foresight in government policy is absolutely necessary.

If corrective action is taken early, it need only be a slight correction which will not disturb the economy or disrupt life at all. But if allowed to go on, as the case with the oil crisis in the United States, and we double our consumption of oil year after year until demand rapidly outruns any hope of supply, then we will be in for real trouble.

The population explosion is, of course, an example of the exponential curve to which I have referred. It took all history, and pre-history too, to produce a world population of one billion by 1840. It took less than a century to add the second billion and a mere 35 years to add the third. By the end of the twentieth century the world will have doubled its present population, bringing the number to more than seven billion. This is the kind of problem we will be faced with.

I think it is vitally important for us as a nation to recognize how our policies are going to affect the rest of the world, and how the rest of the world is going to affect us by their policies. We cannot operate in a vacuum. We cannot operate as a federal parliament by ignoring the effects our policies will have on provincial policies and on the policies of other levels of government.

We, of course, have gaily encouraged the population explosion, and I see nothing wrong with this. We have coped pretty well as a civilization with one of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, the rider of the black horse, famine and pestilence. We have even delayed the rider of the pale horse, death, to the point where we now have a much longer life expectancy, which is a beneficial thing. But one of the side effects is that we have more and more people in our population who are non-productive. In other words, the productive years of an average individual rela-