

The Address—Mr. Lundrigan

sand of population, compared with the national average of 10.8 per thousand. There has been a reduction of 23 per cent in new cases of tuberculosis discovered in 1969, as compared with 1968. In the Northwest Territories alone 11 new nursing stations were built in 1969-70 in various communities. The government's objective of having nursing stations staffed by qualified nurses in all communities of more than 100 persons will be attained within a year or so. So, Mr. Speaker, all is not bad. As I said earlier, we have seen a massive housing program undertaken. Approximately 2,000 additional homes have been built. We have seen our children lodged in school. We are on the threshold of truly participating with the rest of society. We have problems. Our prices are high. We are finding difficulty in financing our ski team and in raising the quality of human life.

In conclusion, may I urge one more thing on the government. In the South Nahanni area one can find one of the most magnificent wild rivers in Canada. It is one of the most spectacular sights I have seen in my lifetime. Although I have lived in the north for many years, I saw it for the first time this past summer while in the company of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner). We agreed that this area was worthy of protection for the people of Canada and for the generations to come. I know that there is some concern with regard to mining interests. I also know that the area is not used now, and has not been so used for some time, by the native peoples for hunting and trapping because it has a violent nature. There is only one person living in the area and because of the possibility of it becoming a national park, and being too crowded, Mr. Kraus is planning to move to another area. I urge the government to give serious consideration to a national park in this wild river region.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Ryan: Would the hon. member suggest assisting this prospector to get past the rapids on the South Nahanni river each spring? Maybe the old boy might find that long lost mine some day.

Mr. Orange: First, he stayed there all year. We are talking about the guy on the site there now, Albert Faillie. He has been going up for years. The only way he'll ever make it up there again is by airplane and the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories has promised to arrange this for him. Albert will get his final trip up the Nahanni by airplane, and he might find that mine.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): It is very difficult to stand in the House of Commons today and speak in the debate on the Address in the light of the situation facing us. It is difficult for all members, and especially for those who have taken part in the discussion today, to ignore at least temporarily, for the sake of responding appropriately to the Speech from the Throne, a critical and serious problem in our nation. Nevertheless, perhaps the events of the last week provide a fitting background to some of the remarks I am about to make and I ask hon. members forgive me if I do not attempt to take a wide national perspective but, rather, direct atten-

tion at an appropriate period in Canadian history to the problems which face one part of Canada. I feel it is somewhat futile to say anything at all, and this reflects my disappointment in the effectiveness of debates such as these. The people I really want to talk to are not in the House today, some for very good reasons and others for lack of interest. I should like my words to reach at least some of those who are responsible for decisions affecting spending and programming.

The people I represent on the east coast of Canada are in many ways the least likely to receive consideration because of their seeming inability to draw attention to their problems by displays of unrest such as seem to have become familiar in other parts of Canada. I represent the quietest people living on the continent of North America. The amazing thing is that the people of Newfoundland probably have the richest culture in North America, the only distinctive culture remaining in Canada. The rest all seems to have become the same. Our history goes back a long way. We have had a civilization of great magnificence going back at least to the year 1500 according to the records, and there is archeological evidence to indicate that there were settlements in Newfoundland as far back as the year 900 at a time when the great cities of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal were not even heard of. It is perhaps a contradiction that some of the representatives of Newfoundland, including the Premier of our province and the Members of Parliament who represent our province, excluding myself, of course, should be so vocal and so aggressive in presenting their case. It is an odd contrast that those they represent should be such quiet people, people who believe justice will be done simply because of the need which exists.

I wish to express appreciation to those hon. members who visited our province in the earlier part of this year. I am referring to members of the regional development committee who had an opportunity to see at first hand some of the difficulties which the province faces. I know they are convinced that Canadians ought to pay attention to the needs of the east coast of Canada, if for no other reason than to honour the pledge which was made in 1949 under the terms of union, that is, the standard of living in Newfoundland would be made to correspond, roughly, to that which prevails in the other provinces.

What does it really mean to be a Canadian, and what does it mean to be making a livelihood in this nation? It might mean you are employed at a salary of \$25,000, \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year, living in a hundred thousand or two hundred thousand dollar home with three or four cars and two colour television sets. You might be as fortunate as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) who, I understand, has a considerable number. You could be a farmer on the prairies with hundreds of acres of grain, or a fisherman based on Prince Rupert with an average income of \$10,000 a year. You could be a tradesman or a technician working in Hamilton or Metropolitan Toronto or one of the other large population centres and earning \$7 or \$8 an hour. You could be among the 93 per cent who are employed at the present time, or you could be among the 20 per cent of the working population of Newfoundland who are unemployed. This percentage is

[Mr. Orange.]