

The Address—Mr. Gelber

In my riding there are several active mines and there are also several mining prospects; not long ago, important deposits were discovered near Senneterre. To stimulate the economy and to fight unemployment which is more serious in our area than anywhere else, it is important that the price of gold be raised by at least \$10 an ounce. That would cause the development of new mines and it would give work to a few thousand of our people.

Unemployment takes a heavy toll in our district, and the level of unemployment is much too unstable. The winter works program which, in many cases, was limited to the harvesting of alders and other reeds, does not satisfy my constituents. Those reeds have to be burned because nobody wants to buy them.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry—and I am sure all other members of the house agree with me—that the speech from the throne does not provide for any legislation which would start the Canadian economy going again. Even the Liberal members who at the outset of their speeches praised the speech from the throne finally told us that they had found none of the measures the Canadian people were expecting.

The speech from the throne should have provided, during this session, for an increase in family allowances proportionate to the cost of living index.

The speech from the throne should have provided a basic exemption in personal income tax of \$2,500 for single people, and \$5,000 for married people. This would have resulted in greater purchasing power for the working people allowing them to purchase goods in greater quantity, thus improving the employment situation.

The speech from the throne should have also provided for a gradual reduction in taxes of all kinds, because they take purchasing power away from consumers and prevent them from getting enough consumer goods.

The speech from the throne should have provided for a refund of the national debt, so that unreasonable interests would not have to be paid, as is now the case. In 1962-63, the national debt cost Canadians \$918 million, that is almost twice as much as the cost of family allowances. Let us reduce our national debt by two thirds and we will be able to double family allowances. Last year the interest on the national debt cost us roughly \$18 million per week; the increase in the amount of interest was about \$1.5 million per week.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate in having, in Canada, a central bank—exclusive property of the government—whose purpose and

responsibility are to regulate credit and money in the interest of our country's economy.

The government should make use of the Bank of Canada to redeem the national debt, thus granting the necessary subsidies to promote consumption and stir up national production.

It seems that the government seeks to grant subsidies, to finance production in order to settle the resulting problem. In my opinion, there is no production problem in Canada, on the contrary, our problem has to do with consumption.

Consequently, the government's role would be first of all to promote consumption in Canada, by means of grants in the form of discounts for producers; this would be to the advantage of the consumer and would cut production costs.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, an improvement would readily be seen in the employment situation, as well as in Canadian trade with other countries. In putting forward this sound and realistic policy, the government would allow Canadians to obtain a better share of our national production, and at the same time to take full advantage of the services available to them.

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Mr. Marvin Gelber (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to add my congratulations to the hon. member for Longueuil and the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard for their distinguished speeches in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I should also like to say, Mr. Speaker, how much I was moved by the address of the hon. member for Leeds.

In this house in recent days we have heard many excellent and sincere speeches on both sides relating to national unity. We are concerned with the problems of adjustment within Canadian society, and have not noted other tensions which have meaning for our own well-being. The struggle between the great powers is not forgotten. The points of friction, often involving nascent states, are dramatically before us. But there are other broad struggles which appear less dramatically in the news but can have a decisive influence on the destiny of our society.

Tensions arising from differences of colour are most important. The establishment of a host of new states in Asia and Africa gives a new status to the social revolution that engulfs these continents. The recent visit of the premier of the Chinese People's Republic to Asia and Africa is a bid to secure non-white diplomacy and to the exclusion of Russian communist influence. The comradeship of colour is a factor of growing importance in