

*The Address—Mr. Burton*

action to ensure stability, especially price stability. For wheat, in particular, adequate government price guarantees are required. Only in this way can those agencies responsible have adequate power to deal with those factors in the world market situation beyond Canada's immediate control.

Second, there is the lack of bargaining power possessed by agriculture. In an economy where power in most sectors is controlled on a block or corporate basis, the farmer is in a hopeless position when he has to continue operation as a small entrepreneur in the classical market situation. The cost-price squeeze is a reality for the farmer.

Third, there is the technological revolution. New technology and developments have profoundly affected agriculture. Science has literally made possible two or more blades of grass where only one grew before. At the same time, new machinery and techniques now enable one man to do what it once took many to do. These changes have already drastically altered the organization of agriculture and have resulted in an upheaval for many people. Still more changes appear to be in the offing. At the same time, the demands for skills required in agriculture are increasing, making adequate education as much of a must for the farmer of the future as for anybody else.

Fourth, there is lagging productivity. The economic council underlined the fact that Canada is not keeping pace in agricultural productivity compared with other countries, largely due to deficiencies in research programs. In addition, I must note that the absence of programs and the misdirection of programs have prevented farmers from obtaining the tools necessary to increase productivity.

The government's reference in the Speech from the Throne to clearing up the backlog of legislation is welcome. Many of these items have long been awaited. No one will quarrel with the particular value of many of the items. But the fact that reference had to be made to these items is surely a severe slap to the previous Liberal government. While the importance of much of this legislation is not questioned, the logic in giving it top billing is curious in view of the references to new priorities. It is like saying that we'll sweep the house before starting the renovations.

Much has been said in this debate about disappointment in the Speech from the Throne, disappointment in the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) elaboration, and indeed in

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recent days disappointment about the lack of vitality in this debate. It is disappointing that to date only three ministers, other than the Prime Minister, have participated in this debate.

All of this is a direct consequence of a basic mistake by the government. The government, as it has stated, raised the expectations of Canadian people. But then, as was evident in the Speech from the Throne and in statements by the Prime Minister in recent weeks, the government lost its cool. It realized that it did not have the plans and programs necessary to make these expectations a reality. Thus, it had to undertake a crash effort to produce acceptable programs. But somehow it had to fill the gap. What better solution than to occupy parliament with unfinished business? This may be smart tactics but it is not good government.

I say this for two reasons. The first is that the type of programs required today need time for implementation. If they are not given first priority now, they will not be developed in time to do the job. The people of Canada will judge the government harshly on this score.

The second reason is that by choosing this course of action the government has irretrievably lost much of the momentum generated in Canadian affairs by the raising of expectations. This has happened because when the moment of truth came the government chose the old, traditional style of politics rather than the new politics of action and dynamic leadership.

We are living in a dynamic society and age. The pace of change and the demand for change accelerate. New knowledge, and new awareness that is universal in its impact, act as a catalyst. People want changes now. They are not prepared to tolerate unsatisfactory situations as was once the case. They know, as a result of new knowledge and awareness, that they do not have to put up with unsatisfactory conditions. The growth in communications is bringing the world closer together. Injustice near at hand is not tolerated in the same way as injustice far away. All the world is now near at hand.

New technology and new knowledge can quickly make a shambles of existing institutions and of the existing economic and social order. People have now experienced the benefits of technology. At the same time, the unrest and disquiet in the world are obvious. People are questioning values. Many, especially the young, see through the shallowness