

*The Address—Mr. Cashin*

are these people who are better off than their fathers, but nevertheless they are pretty much unaffected by the ever increasing gross national productivity and rising standards of living.

Fifteen or so years ago, in the period just after the second world war, it was felt that each year the standard of living would rise, that more and more people would participate in this growth, and that eventually we would eradicate poverty and want from our society.

Thirty years have passed since the theories of Adam Smith were finally and reluctantly buried—the theories if not the attitudes—and the theories of Lord Keynes became operative, and the basis of our present prosperity introduced. The struggle against poverty and privation is as old as man himself, but in this restricted sense it dates back to the thirties, the new deal, Lord Keynes, the King administration and the second world war. The measures brought about as a result of these changes in approach have guaranteed minimum subsistence as a matter of right to the aged, the unemployed, the dependant and the helpless.

The new problems of poverty in the sixties are not so much problems of dire need, but rather problems of opportunity and dignity. The first challenge, I would submit, to the society of the sixties, is to offer to all the opportunity to live in dignity and to participate in the achievements of our time.

We must recognize the causes of this challenge, and approach them with the determination that we would approach an enemy in mortal conflict. We must recognize that there are certain areas of slow economic growth, and consequently in these areas there are more people on the subsistence level. We must recognize too, Mr. Speaker, that increasing productivity may widen this gap, particularly as a result of automation. I think that we know the labour market for unskilled workers is shrinking and that an abnormally high number of our unemployed are young people.

In the past few years, and certainly in the past two, legislation has been introduced which does form the basis for an all-out attack on this problem but I would respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, that our traditional attitudes and approaches will not of themselves solve this problem. What is really needed is the same kind of drastic action that motivated our effort in the second world war. In addition to employing the fiscal policies which have been used these past few decades, we must also support them by a vastly ex-

panded program of public improvements and by a much greater educational effort. I would also point out that not only has the public sector of the economy a responsibility, but so, too, has the private sector. What is needed is a form of communal action that will establish certain priorities and goals for our society.

It is not my intention here this afternoon to analyse specific proposals about the format for communal action, nor is it my intention to comment on the many suggestions which have been forthcoming to cope with the serious problems of unemployment and underemployment. However, as I remarked earlier, we are all aware we do now guarantee if a man is unemployed that he will have some form of assistance. But having done this much, is it much further beyond that to decide that there are certain public funds which can be made available to undertake certain worthy public projects such as urban renewal, and conservation, which could employ the unemployed and the underemployed? Perhaps the employment opportunities which would be made available by undertaking these projects could also be related to a program of training. Such a program would hopefully equip these people to cope with society and become useful and productive citizens. In passing I might say that this afternoon we heard a reference to the problem of area development, and I would hope this is a matter which the government can act upon as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, this first challenge of the equalization of opportunities for all is very closely related to the second challenge which, in my opinion, faces not only Canada but in varying degrees all of the so-called "have nations." It concerns the use which we will make of all the magnificent advances in science and technology. It is essential, Mr. Speaker, that we recognize the extraordinary scope of the scientific revolution now taking place in the world. The knowledge we are going to use, and in fact the knowledge we are already using, will increasingly be employed to alter the world in which we live. On this continent, Mr. Speaker, we are going to be able to produce more goods than ever before, and we will have the ability to provide a standard of living comparable with the maintenance of human dignity for all our citizens.

Our concern then in this second challenge becomes the use which we will make of mankind's sum total of knowledge. Ex-