

*The Address—Mr. Jamieson*

has been as a consequence of the completion of the trans-Canada highway. This government is also committed to a program of trunk roads, the economic effects of which will be as great as those of the trans-Canada highway. I am sure that the benefits to the economy of my riding and to other parts of Canada will be profound.

The problems of our rural areas, Mr. Speaker, are in sharp contrast to those of our tangled urban regions. In every great metropolis and in many cities of smaller size a host of problems has come together to create a baffling and intricate crisis. No part of the speech from the throne is more important than that emphasizing the need for action in this extremely critical area. The elements of the crisis are well known to us, and the solution will require imagination, boldness and creativity. The standard answers of the past will not do nor, I suggest, is this a time for hair splitting over areas of authority. The test of leadership at all levels may be the manner in which we deal with the problems of urban development.

There is truth in the contention that even the greatest problem can be turned to advantage. The very magnitude of our difficulties in the cities gives us an opportunity to change the entire nature of our urban environment. Expo '67 graphically demonstrates that we have the talent to reshape our cities in the image of tomorrow. I hope we take advantage of our talents. I hope that in redeveloping our decayed built-up areas and in conceiving new residential sections we are not afraid of the unconventional. Let us draw on the vivid imaginations and farsighted genius of those who can add new dimensions of enjoyment to our way of life.

Here we have an opportunity, it seems to me, to free ourselves from the stifling mediocrity of most large centres. I believe that we can restore to our children of the streets their rightful heritage of broad open spaces and good, clean air. But this will not be done by cold-blooded theorists or by slide rule administrators. This is not something that will appeal to those who believe that man is content with clothes on his back, three square meals a day and a roof over his head. The challenge is to those who would free the human spirit and relieve the monotony of our every-day lives. It is to those who would create new horizons of beauty to delight the eye, new cultural experiences to stimulate the mind, and peaceful havens where we can relieve the tensions of our hurried pace. That

dream has stirred the hearts of men since the beginning of time, and I believe that if we have the will we have the ability to make it a reality. Nothing could be a greater challenge in this our centennial year.

I am not unaware of the difficulties. I have been a member of this house now for nine months. During that time I have heeded the advice of Ecclesiastes that "there is a time to keep silence." I have also followed the advice, and good advice it is, of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition who maintains that a new member ought to keep his peace for a considerable time. There is much to learn here and much from past experience to forget. I am more conscious than before of the complexities of our system, of the intricate way in which each life touches every other life in our society and of the need not only to act but to contemplate reaction. It has been a sobering, humbling and altogether salutary experience. I have a greater appreciation for the value of our parliamentary system and a much greater respect for those men of all parties who have devoted their lives to service in this house.

Most, I am sure, will agree that there has been a decline in public esteem for parliament. Nine months ago, as a brash observer from the outside I was prepared to assert without qualification that this house was the author of its own misfortunes. I am no longer certain. I agree, as all hon. members do, with that part of the speech from the throne which says that we must move quickly to change our rules and procedures and equip ourselves with the means of doing our task more rapidly and effectively. Since coming here I have been impressed by how much has been accomplished despite the present frustratingly slow methods. The record of the last session was one of the best in a hundred years. The work of the committees was excellent. Yet there continue to be those who regard parliament as a noisy cockpit where members are obsessed with senseless bickering and the pursuit of personal vendettas.

We are not without sin of course, but by the same token I believe we are the victims of an increasingly cynical and sceptical age. It may be cold comfort, Mr. Speaker, but parliament shares with the church, educational establishments and other institutions the ill concealed scorn of the iconoclast, the doubter, the disbeliever. The reasons for this widespread mood are varied, deep-seated and in many instances justified. It is sufficient today, sir, because of the limitation of time, to observe that material progress alone is not