

The Address—Mr. Carter

to make his cabinet the largest in Canadian history.

Mr. Speaker, during this debate we have heard some very attractive speeches from the members of the government. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) and the Prime Minister spoke with a sense of great concern; both verbalized about compassion and understanding among men in public life. It is obvious that Rule 75c has at least given the government the security to indulge in higher aspirations than those of last session. As we all know, our last session was strikingly marked by the petulant, authoritative language of bullies.

The Prime Minister and the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply made very good speeches. Nevertheless, their remarks boiled down to little more than humbug, pure hogwash. I feel that I speak for my colleagues on this side of the House when I say that their utterances do not in the least affect the substance of the Speech from the Throne. We all know that the Speech from the Throne is neither a promise of nor an immediate response to the problems of this country. All the flowery phrases of the Prime Minister and his ministers will not in the least alter that fact.

To underline my lack of confidence in the Speech from the Throne I should like to speak of the challenges and problems facing my province. The preamble to the Speech from the Throne was established in full by the Prime Minister during several of his speeches this summer at Liberal fund-raising dinners. In some ways these occasions have received national audiences. Liberal fund-raising dinners have now become the place where the Prime Minister exhibits his rare and Napoleonic courage.

In establishing his attitude toward the Atlantic provinces and other areas of inadequate economic development, the Prime Minister stated at the Liberal Federation of Canada in Montreal on October 19:

● (8:30 p.m.)

And when we tackle the problem of Canadian unity from the economic point of view, the problem of having rich provinces, rich areas, help the poor, it is Jean Marchand who looks after that.

I can speak very well for my province. Regretfully, I say that in the matter of regional disparities this wonder boy of the Liberal party, this great saviour of eastern Canada wherein regional disparity is obvious, has paid lip service only to the solution

of those serious problems facing the Atlantic region and the especially serious problems facing Newfoundland. In the Speech from the Throne we saw little reference to the terrible curse of regional disparity and the need to assist our fishing industry. Indeed, the Speech from the Throne made only the following reference to the fishing industry of eastern Canada:

The competitive position of Canadian fisheries must also be strengthened, not only through new licensing and marketing arrangements, but also by extending Canada's exclusive fishing zones.

It is obvious that this government is incapable of grappling with the problems now facing the nation; that it has become completely indifferent to regional poverty and that we can expect nothing but lazy paternalism. I hope the House finds my comments provocative, because the province for which I speak, Newfoundland, desperately needs government help. Newfoundlanders want to become full and productive partners in our confederation. We do not ask for special status, but let the word go out tonight that we demand equal status.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Carter: Before the Prime Minister charges another task force to go out and find what are the ills of the nation, I am sure that the needs of Canada's "have not" regions are well known to the government and that it knows about our problems and acknowledges the need for solutions to them. The poor people of this country, whether they are in my province or in the slums of Toronto or Hamilton, will say that the Prime Minister is being phony when he implies that the government does not know enough to obliterate their physical plight.

A few simple statistics, Mr. Speaker, argue the case for much more action for Newfoundland. We have now had Liberal governments for nearly a decade in Canada, and they have all committed themselves to developing the quality of life in my province. But I can inform the House that today we have in Newfoundland one doctor for every 1,590 people, while Canada's average ratio is one doctor for every 833 people.

Today a large percentage of our population earn less than \$4,000 a year, which again is far below the national average. Newfoundland has the highest unemployment rate in Canada and less opportunity for our people. Indeed, our unemployment rate is more than one-third greater than the national average, and this rate is increasing. The government