

The Address—Mr. Crouse

industries, plus the side effects of the automobile strike, are expected to drive up the number of unemployed by the end of this year to approximately 750,000 people. This would mean an actual rate of people unemployed in the vicinity of 9½ per cent of our labour force, a cruel and intolerable situation in a nation like Canada, since this would be a rate of unemployment higher than at any other period in our history. This is not what we want as Canadians.

The Speech from the Throne states that with foresight, stamina and enterprise we may have a society in which individual freedom and equality of opportunity remain as our most cherished possessions, a society in which the enjoyment of life is measured in qualitative, not quantitative terms. I would remind the Prime Minister and his government that without jobs and incomes there can be no way of life, no enjoyment of life, for hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

What we as Canadians really want is not more people on the welfare rolls; we want more people on the pay-rolls. Even the Prime Minister and his colleagues seem to be dimly aware of this fact as they talk of pursuing the distant ideal of a just society. In fact, the government's pretensions of a just society today are only a mirage, and like all mirages it keeps fading in the distance, unobtainable and without substance.

The Throne Speech states that one of our needs in Canada is adequate housing. This will always be a problem in any nation where there is a marked shift from the rural to the urban areas. But surely the government is aware that the 37 per cent decline in housing construction across the nation today can be directly related to the building codes imposed on CMHC loans, to the high interest rates on those loans, and to the federal taxes on construction equipment and building materials. It is unfair and unjust to our young people, and some not so young, to make housing the lever by which the government manipulates the economy, upward or downward, like a puppet on a string.

Our housing development and our construction industry will only go forward when the government establishes a stable housing policy which is designed to encourage home ownership at reasonable cost, with the future wellbeing of our Canadian families as the central core of that policy. It is the Canadian family that provides stability to this nation, and if there is a breakdown in our family life there follows a breakdown in society. This brings with it an outbreak of lawlessness, a disrespect for law and order, something that is all too prevalent in Canada today. The withdrawal, for example, of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials and construction equipment would go a long way towards reviving housing construction in this nation.

As I read the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but question the motives of this government. I ask myself, conscientiously and seriously: In what direction are we being led? The speech calls for the reorganization of the government's urban activities, under the direction of a minister of state for urban affairs and housing. In other words, another minister,

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more bureaucrats and more civil servants. I would remind the government that what we need are not more housing authorities; what we need in Canada are more houses.

The Prime Minister is reported as saying during the past summer that if we do not like the way he is governing this country we can lump it. I for one do not like it, and I submit that the onus is on us to speak out against the present government's form of empire building. In Canada today we already have 25 government departments, 13 departmental corporations, 15 agency corporations, 14 propriety corporations, and 46 designated departments for purposes of the Financial Administration Act, making a total of 113. In this bureaucracy, at the federal level, we have a total personnel in excess of 371,000 people, excluding military personnel. When you add to this the bureaucracy of the provincial governments which employs some 333,000 people, and the 275,000 employed by regional and municipal governments, hon. members will realize there are close to one million employees in government in Canada today, and this for a nation of less than 22 million people.

What does all this mean, Mr. Speaker? It means that the influence of the government on business and on the public will continue to grow. I mention this because of the words in the Speech from the Throne which refer to the white paper on taxation and the implied threat made to corporations. Under this government it has apparently become illegal to make a profit. In my early years, when I was working for a large corporation, I was always pleased to note that the parent company was making money. Profits are the best guarantee to an employee of future job security, a fact that this government would do well to remember.

What worries me is the growing socialistic thinking of the government. There is an attitude that government can continue to take more and more out of the private sector of society without any concern at all for the state of the economy. However, there is a limit beyond which governments cannot go, and I submit that we are now nearing this limit in view of the rate of taxation imposed on industry and Canadians generally.

• (2:30 p.m.)

For example, let us consider some of the reports emanating from our large corporations. Take Massey-Ferguson, for example, Canada's fifth largest company. Sales for the first nine months of this year were down \$14,500,000 from the corresponding period in 1969. For the third quarter, their net loss was \$11,100,000 compared with a profit of \$9,500,000 for the third quarter in 1969. In Toronto, General Motors has announced the closing of its Frigidaire home appliance division which will affect the employment of some 400 people. They presently employ, I am told, 1,400 people in that particular corporation and they plan to move a thousand of these people to other sections of their operations, but this still leaves 400 people unemployed as of the first of this coming year.

In both cases the reasons for the heavy losses or close down are similar. Production costs no longer make it