

pursuit of the national objectives set out and enacted by a parliamentary government responsible to the people.

The Speech from the Throne indicates that the Government intends to carry out a legislative program which is far-reaching both in the importance of the subject-matters mentioned and in its foreseeable consequences. May I be permitted to bring a few of its aspects to the attention of honourable senators.

First of all, I wish to point out the wide program of social and economic security.

These last few years, Canada has entered, without being quite aware of it at first, but to an ever-increasing degree, into a period of diminishing prosperity, followed by a recession that soon threatened to become a serious depression. By a striking coincidence, the same situation was developing, simultaneously and even becoming more pronounced, in the United States of America.

From the end of the war to the last three or four years, our country, however, had experienced an era of prosperity, astonishing in many respects. Credit must be given to whom credit is due.

Great manufacturing plants were established in our cities and towns, from coast to coast. Out in the country, around the small and large centres, farmers were lured by wages that made them scorn the slender returns from the ancestral land. Despite the assistance of governments, particularly the provincial governments, agriculture was partially abandoned. At the same time, it seemed necessary to carry out an intensive program of immigration, from a humanitarian point of view with regard to the many unfortunate victims of communist oppression and by reason of that great economic development which seemed such a godsend.

Naturally, the house-building industry experienced an unprecedented, yet at all times inadequate, development, so great was the necessity of providing accommodation for the ever-increasing number of new Canadian families.

But such prosperity was not without its risks. Great production and commercial companies increased very rapidly. Due to the system of interlocking joint stock companies, known as parent companies, subsidiary companies and sister or associated companies, an enormous volume of investment capital brought in by our neighbours, and indeed our most powerful competitors, contributed not only to the growth of our commercial and industrial economy, to the development of our natural resources, but also to the export of our raw materials. Meanwhile, on the whole, we were importing more and more foreign manufactured products; many were necessary,

it is true, but a great deal were intended merely to satisfy our hunger, legitimate perhaps, for excessive comforts and luxuries.

As a matter of fact, economically, politically and internationally speaking as well, we were following full steam ahead in the wake of the most powerful Western nation, our neighbour to the South, who since the last war, for the sake of its own security and that of the United Nations of course,—though having in view its own tremendous development,—was dragged along with its partners, in a stupendous race towards what was and still is the very survival of democratic states, of human, civic and religious freedoms, threatened by the octopus of communism.

We are not yet out of danger. Some countries of the Western bloc and some outstanding statesmen, such as the Marquis of Salisbury, are concerned with the exact meaning of the international policy of the United States in regard to the critical situation between East and West, to the crisis in Indo-China, in the Near East, in Egypt, in the Arabian States and in North Africa.

In the meantime, however, the too great economic interdependence between the Western countries, especially between Canada and our mighty neighbour to the South, has compelled us to reappraise our way of thinking and to take a second look at the situation.

Our economy and our national policies as well, though closely tied to those of mighty America, must not be dominated by them. It is only fair that we should remain masters of our own decisions instead of being inevitably swayed by the rigid workings of economic complexities. That does in no way imply unfriendliness, but we wish to maintain between our two nations friendly relations based on the respect of each other's rights. Indeed, the United States and Canada share with England and France so many dear and glorious memories, that it is inconceivable that the good will and the respect we have toward one another could come to an end. As for us, Canadians, in order to work toward the common good and to give our full measure of co-operation, we must remain masters of our political decisions, we must be completely free to adjust our economic relations so as to improve our ever-increasing unfavourable commercial balance. We must, on the one hand, freely control, even prohibit if necessary, the excessive inflow of foreign capital in our industry; on the other hand, we must be in a position to expand our trade with all countries without interference from any quarters which might be looked upon as worthy of proponents of the law of the jungle.

Sincerely wishing that true friendly and fair relations be maintained between our country and our allies, we enthusiastically