

*The Address—Mr. Baldwin*

pronouncements from the top and the dictates of party may be loud, but are not always clear. It is only given to the truly faithful to be able to detect the divine nature of some of these revelations.

However, partly because of the shrill cries of those who are still fighting the doctrinaire battles of long ago, sometimes to carry out the pet schemes of civil servants, and frequently because of pure, political opportunism, the state is moving constantly and on a broad front to legislate, tax and spend: legislate, tax and spend.

I readily concede that there are still large areas affected by poverty, disease and ignorance where the public sector must intervene because the private sector has not been capable of solving the problems. This is something which is accepted in our society as it is today. But I dislike the interference, the red tape the increasing bureaucracy and the dwindling freedom of the ordinary citizen which this government involvement means. All too often, in an effort to deal with a particular evil, we end up by legislating in such a way that we invade the general rights of everybody and affect the entire community. We invoke the whole massive apparatus of the state when a more selective approach would be adequate. It is like using a nuclear missile to gun down a marauding crow. There is this constant deterioration in the capacity to enjoy freedom, to live life as a human being, fashioned in the image of the Creator, as a separate, distinct and highly individualistic person.

The state towers above us, huge, immovable, impersonal, with all the rules in its favour; with forms, red tape and bureaucracy squeezing out the colour and life of ordinary human beings, and with a future ahead of us looking more and more as a dreary, dull wasteland, adjusted to conformity, with the ultimate loss of the divine spark of individuality. No wonder people are being driven into the bog of television and other synthetic enjoyments, despite the bad taste of some programs, and the mealy-mouthed mediocrity of many of the public affairs programs and commentators.

The question which comes to me over and over again on these issues as they come up in the house for discussion, consideration and voting is: What is the real cost, not only in terms of actual dollars, but remembering that after the tax structure established by spending programs is reflected in the cost of living there is a very little real net return to those

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who are on the receiving end of these programs?

A year ago, on April 22, I referred to this particular issue in the house when I said the following:

I have an idea that people would like us seriously to consider the problems presented by inflation. That word, of course, is a bland euphemism used by those in authority to express the fact that the prices of meat, milk, bread, shoes, taxes, rent and so on are all going up and up, so much so that there is reason to believe that one of the unidentified flying objects about which we have heard so much has been identified as the cost of living index.

Since I made that speech the cost of living index has gone up 4.6 points, and the cost of many of the programs which have been put into effect during the course of the last year has not yet been fed into the economy. This fact, the steady and relentless whittling away of the rights of the individual, and the enormous growth of the government, is the price we are paying for these reforms. The question then is: What must we do in this house to be able to reform our procedure and our rules so that when the government, as it apparently proposes to do, moves ahead on this broad front dealing with every aspect of human life, we in this house will be able to discharge the obligations to our constituents who sent us here to examine, scrutinize and analyse these things, to make sure that the price which is paid in the loss of human freedom and human rights is as small as we can possibly make it.

I fully realize that many bills will be passed, but the price which we are paying is far too great. We must have an opportunity to examine, scrutinize and make certain that the amount of liberty which is lost is as small as possible under the circumstances. More than that, when the government acting under the legislative proposals enacts orders in council and ministerial regulations there must be a procedure and a means whereby those can be brought back into the house for examination and scrutiny, so that we can ascertain their effect and impact upon the public. At the present time there is no means of doing this, and this constitutes a grave gap in the duty and responsibilities which we as members should exercise, on behalf of the people who sent us here. In looking many months ahead, which I believe we have to do if we take the speech of the Prime Minister and the speech from the throne seriously, we must organize, change and modify our rules and our means of carrying on the business of the country and the business of parliament so that the private