

*The Address—Mr. Thompson*

Therefore I am pleased to see the government is picking up that work and I hope we can expect action in this regard very soon this session. Considering the amount of work outlined in the throne speech, unless we reform the rules under which we operate, it will not take 14 months to get through the program; it will take two years. I suggest that the government move quickly to introduce, at least on a trial basis, some of the recommendations placed before the house by that special committee on procedure. It is imperative that the house rules be modernized if we are to cope with the load of work presented to us.

I am also grateful to see the government has seen fit to mention the need for a parliamentary commissioner or ombudsman, but I fail to understand its trying to evade the issue by saying a royal commission is necessary to give further study to the proposal. The committee which studied the role of an ombudsman, and which presented a report to the house, did a very thorough job. I had hoped the government would take that opportunity when the report was presented to indicate it intended setting up the institution of a protector of individual civil rights, which is the role of an ombudsman.

I also commend the government on the stand it has taken with regard to Viet Nam. It is essential that we face facts. I do not think any amount of appeasement will ever bring peace in the world, a peace which must come because the futility of war has been demonstrated in every corner of the earth as something that will not settle arguments but which destroys nations. The submission of an idea or a country into slavery by another idea or other country, is certainly no way to bring about the peaceful settlement of our problems and permit the development of our resources, both human and material, as they must be developed.

I found it interesting to note that just yesterday the Prime Minister of Australia said that "the United States intervention in Viet Nam was the greatest act of moral courage since Britain stood alone during the second world war." He described the United States action on behalf of the free world "as one of the greatest manifestations ever of justice and principle."

This does not mean we must always follow the pattern or echo the words of our great neighbour to the south, but let us understand very clearly that compromise is not necessarily the answer to the problems we face in that part of the world.

As one listens morning by morning and evening by evening to news reports, particularly those of the C.B.C., he wonders whether or not the policy makers of this continent are Walter Lippmann and James M. Minifie, with a few echoes being carried on this side of the border by the leader of the New Democratic party, the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas).

Why do we not hear complaints about the persecution of the Jews in Russia? Why do not the peace marchers protest the murder of tens of thousands of Viet Nam villagers by the Viet Cong? Why have we not heard protests through the news media about the tens of thousands of Congolese villagers who have been murdered by rebel forces which receive the encouragement of communist nations?

Through the confusion of the problems which beset us we seem to have lost sight of many of the things which really count. What is our concept of a world? Is it a place where mankind can live in peace, with nations as neighbours, where we respect the divisions that divide us and yet give each of us the dignity which a human being should have? Too many of our leaders are not convinced sufficiently of the things in which they should believe, and because they are not, we have to pick an uneasy way out of the dilemmas in which we find ourselves.

In this regard the suggestion by the government to set up a Company of Young Canadians is a good idea. It can be a tremendous thing for the youth of the country, not only from the point of view of developing some of the finer things of life but also developing a sense of responsibility and discipline. One of the greatest needs today, in an age which is characterized by loose morals, is a secure sense of responsibility, and those things which strengthen discipline on the one hand and provide the opportunity for a responsible effort on the other, will help build our nation. But even beyond that, such a project if it were properly conceived and based on the highest principles which are essential to a free way of life, would help us shoulder our responsibilities to the other parts of the world and give our young people the opportunity to go out and help others less fortunate than themselves.

This has a double barreled effect, as I have observed in many underdeveloped countries. Not only does it accomplish what is necessary in helping those people help themselves, but it is a tremendous help to the country from which the young people set out, particularly when they later return to take up places of responsibility in their own country.