

*The Address—Mr. Honey*

continue for four and maybe five sessions, and can get down to its work in a progressive and business-like manner.

I should have liked to see an indication in the throne speech of the extension of family allowances covering those students who remain in high school beyond the age of 16 years. If that is not forthcoming this session I hope it will be forthcoming next session, but in any event we have the undertaking of the government that it will be forthcoming during this parliament. This is important. We have to get the children through high school and into the universities where student loans and scholarships would be helpful, but at this point in their high school years their books are expensive and the problem of providing their shoes and clothing becomes more burdensome. An extension for another one or two years of the family allowance would be helpful, and I hope we will see legislation to that effect before too long.

I also welcome the notice in the throne speech with respect to the establishment of a ministry responsible for rural development. As the Prime Minister has said, this ministry and this legislation will give emphasis to the two great primary industries in Canada, forestry and agriculture. The present land use pattern in Canada, particularly in eastern Canada, is of concern to all of us. There is a great deal of inefficient and sometimes wasteful use of our greatest natural resource. I am referring now to the land, and if you wish to take the land in the broad context of forestry I will admit to that also.

I hope this new ministry will be an imaginative one. I congratulate the hon. member for Iles-de-la-Madeleine (Mr. Sauve), who will be the new minister in charge of it. I think he is an imaginative man who will be daring in this new field. In this area we have to be daring and resourceful, and we are going to have to do things that maybe our predecessors would have thought somewhat radical. In this respect I refer to areas in eastern Canada of low farm income, about which we have heard in this and other debates. I look forward to this ministry, probably through ARDA or some other legislative means, taking some of the marginal land out of farm production and helping our farmers to become more productive on better units of agricultural land.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned some of the items that appeared in the throne speech. I now want to deal with an item which was not in the throne speech. I wish to place it on the record now, and I hope it is something that is within the consideration of the government in its program for parliament. By way of introducing it, I may say I do not feel that because I sit on this side of the house I should

[Mr. Honey.]

be inhibited from reminding the government of the things I think should be done and have to be done. That applies also to other hon. members on this side of the chamber. In this context the matter I refer to is legislation providing for the establishment of national marketing boards and marketing co-operatives. I know this is a complex matter and involves a constitutional problem, but because it is complex that does not mean that the government should not proceed with it.

I do not suggest, even if it were constitutionally possible to do so, that the government should enact legislation making national marketing boards and co-operatives obligatory or compulsory, but I do say that the government should proceed in due course with consultations with the provinces. I know the Minister of Agriculture has already been doing this and I congratulate him on it. These consultations with the provinces should be with a view to reaching agreement on the enactment of permissive legislation which would allow marketing boards and marketing co-operatives to operate on a national scale when any particular producer group desired that its particular commodity should be marketed in this fashion. In other words it would be a matter for determination by each producer group as to whether or not it wished to market its commodity on a national scale. This legislation would be permissive in that if the producer group wished to market its commodity on a national basis, the legislation would be available to permit it to do so.

I have referred to the constitutional problem relating to the establishment of national marketing boards, and I reiterate it here only to say that there are no insurmountable constitutional blocks in the way of establishing such agencies if there is a genuine desire on the part of the federal and provincial authorities to do so.

Many hon. members are familiar with the natural products marketing act of 1934, which was a hurried attempt in the context of that parliament to set up some sort of national marketing legislation. I shall not go into the details, but it is sufficient to say that in 1936 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled this legislation ultra vires the constitutional authority of parliament. The legislation was found to be ultra vires because it did not limit itself to affairs of an external and interprovincial nature only, but dealt also with trade which was of an entirely local concern, and the Supreme Court of Canada said that regulation of trade in this sweeping fashion, particularly as it purported to affect trade within a province, was not within the competence of parliament.