

*The Address—Mr. Basford*

far more than can be sold in Canada. I would emphasize to the government that we must follow a trade policy, as we have so successfully done with wheat, which creates and develops markets for our products.

Traditionally our trading policy has been oriented to the European or Atlantic countries. I suggest there is in the Asian and Far Eastern countries, the developing countries of the Pacific rim region, a huge potential for the expansion of Canadian trade. Briefly I urge upon the ministry that it pursue two orientations in Canadian trading patterns, one to the important Atlantic region and one to the growing Pacific region. This is a different and uncharted market. We cannot necessarily apply to it existing and traditional formulas.

Our foreign policy generally, and our foreign aid, investment and credit policies specifically must be complementary to our trading policy if we are to realize the potential of exports to the Pacific rim region. Let us remember that as the underdeveloped Asian countries develop, their need for raw materials and manufactured products is immense. Let us assure that Canada takes part in filling the need they will have.

The hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), the leader of the New Democratic party, has been saying for 25 years that this party is not a progressive party and that it is not prepared to help those in our society who need help. It would appear that because he has been saying the same old thing for 25 years, fewer and fewer people are paying much attention to what he or his party have to say. This speech from the throne, the second instalment of our Liberal program, clearly shows the hon. member to be wrong and clearly establishes this party and this government as the progressive party of Canada, as the effective element of reform in Canada; and I refer specifically to such measures provided for in the speech from the throne as the national labour code, the interest free loans to students, retirement age for the Senate, redistribution, an enforceable limit to election expenditures, the concern of the government for rural development, and last but most important the indicated determination of the government to proceed with a contributory pension plan. These measures all indicate and confirm this government as a progressive, forward looking, reform minded government.

With regard to the pension plan I want—and this being leap year I hesitate—nevertheless I want to pay a particular tribute to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The fact that we are now able to proceed at this point with the pension plan is due in large

measure, I suggest, to the dogged determination she showed in support of that plan, and I hope that in the years ahead the people of Canada will come to realize this.

I want to assure the Prime Minister that the people of my riding want a contributory pension plan, and that the people of this country who work in our offices and factories, in our forests and on our farms, want it. Admittedly they are not the people who have the resources to hire expensive public relations men to try and discredit the pension plan. Admittedly they are not the people whose re-election to some provincial parliament is dependent on large campaign contributions. They are, however, the people who after a lifetime's work are entitled to look to the government, as they will to this government, to have provided a system by which they can retire in security and with dignity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to three somewhat related matters. The speech from the throne tells us provision will be made for assistance to Canadian periodicals. This surely is related to the much larger question of whether Canadians really want to remain Canadians. We have to ask ourselves whether Canada is to continue as a nation and, if it is, certain things must be done to assure that it does continue as a free and independent nation. This government has answered this question in the affirmative.

This party has a proud record in the historical development of Canada as a free and independent country within the commonwealth. We are now prepared to see that we remain a free and independent country. We have played our part in the establishment of this country; we are not prepared to play a part in breaking it up. We must concern ourselves with the degree of foreign capital and cultural influence in Canada. If we cannot remain economically free, if we cannot preserve a Canadian identity, we cannot long remain politically free. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we are going to need foreign capital in Canada; but we, as people in so many other countries do, are surely entitled to regulate the type and nature of that capital. We cannot and should not try to isolate ourselves and build a wall around Canada, but as a government we can be and are responsible to see that Canada's national identity is not submerged.

We are, of course, concerned about the means and methods and techniques, but surely we must all be committed to the preservation of Canada and its identity. This will take some sacrifice and some cost on our part, but surely Canada is worth making that sacrifice for and worth paying that price.