

think anyone would like the situation that exists in an area where there is heavy unemployment. I am not crying; I am simply stating a fact that is well known. The unemployment which exists in my area cannot be tolerated very much longer. As a matter of fact, it is one of the worst pockets of unemployment in Canada. How can the economy of Brant and the surrounding area be stimulated? It can be stimulated by granting to the area the facilities it deserves, needs and can exploit—the most extensive and beautiful recreational facilities that can be found in North America and the reconstruction and redevelopment of navigability for pleasure craft on the Grand River.

When this is done, Mr. Speaker, you can count on it that we will have all the industrial growth we can handle in my important area. This will help bring about full employment. Also, the revenue from tourism resulting from these improvements will in itself greatly stimulate the economy of my district. This whole area in the past has been loyal to Canada. Long ago it was loyal to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom. Today it is loyal to the Liberal tradition in Parliament through its representatives. I say, let the Liberal tradition in Parliament show its loyalty to the area which I represent, as well as to its neighbouring and adjoining counties which I love.

I have nearly finished, Mr. Speaker. Some members will be delighted to hear this. However, there was some laughter a moment ago when I said what I did about the government not having done anything to assist and stimulate employment in my area. Not too long ago a great statesman in this country said that to govern is to choose. Mr. Speaker, I cannot govern; I can only choose. This is limiting to a degree, but it is not too limiting because I can choose and have chosen. I have chosen the man who wrote the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Rodrigue: Mr. Speaker, may I point out that it is six o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Honey): It being six o'clock, I do now leave the Chair. The sitting will resume at eight o'clock p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

[Translation]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Romuald Rodrigue (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, first of all may I be allowed to offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Honey) on his appointment as Deputy Speaker.

I would also like to join with all my colleagues in order to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion for the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, (Mr. Trudel and Mr. Douglas) who have carried out their task in admirable fashion.

The Address—Mr. Rodrigue

I have read and reread the Speech from the Throne as well as the list of legislative proposals mentioned in that Speech, and I would truly like to share the optimism which the mover and seconder have tried to communicate to us.

Indeed, those who have prepared this statement must have done some truly extraordinary intellectual exercises to submit to us once again some antiquated ideas in a new light. This feat has called for increased effort and, had it not been for their artistic talents, they would have failed. This is the feeling we have after reading the Speech from the Throne, the third in the reign of the just society.

Those who have presided over the drafting of this document have given interesting consideration to our society's problems and are promising us many projects whose content must be known before we can determine their real value.

They succeeded in bringing together in that speech a collection of pretentious sentences to launch again the slogan of the just society. I am astonished that they avail themselves of that opportunity to revive an old slogan which they even tried for a while to make us forget.

Two years of power under the just society urge us to show discretion before the smoke screen which the federal cabinet is trying to throw before our eyes.

The Canadian population is ready to believe that the proposed reforms will be the ultimate solution to today's problems and that they will meet every citizen's needs. But we will know if the government is fulfilling its promises only when we read the bills.

In September 1968, in the Throne Speech of the first session, the new government stated its commitment to the objectives of a just society and a prosperous economy in a peaceful world.

Then, as today, the just society could not be achieved if the government did not eliminate the injustices bearing upon the various groups forming the Canadian nation.

In its second Throne Speech, the government announced the publication, in the following months, of several White Papers on subjects such as external affairs, national defence, tax reform, citizenship, social security, information and postal services. Those White Papers were meant to be the foundation of Canada's just society.

• (8:10 p.m.)

This second Speech from the Throne indicated also that the time had come where "Canada must be prepared to face the coming challenges of the post-industrial era". In the opinion of the government therefore a systematic reassessment of Canadian society and its guidelines was necessary.

During the following months the government tabled white papers on tax reform, unemployment insurance, the metric system as well as other documents on foreign affairs.

I am ready to believe in the government's good faith in tabling these white papers outlining its policies and