

*The Address—Mr. Broadbent*

That is why the government over the coming months will seek the close co-operation of Parliament, the provincial governments, business, labour and the general public in focussing on the priority problems the government has identified, on the strategies we will propose, and on choosing from among the options which we will define.

Those choices, and their co-operative adoption by Canadians, are the second crucial element in the anti-inflation program. Controls buy us the time to make the changes necessary for future stability and growth. The government has been using the time provided by the first year of controls to analyze the major economic problems which lie in the path of our future stability, and to define the options available to us. Now it is time for the second phase of that process, the involvement of Canadians generally in making the important choices presented to us by the difficult and promising times in which we live. As those choices are made, they will be translated into new laws and new working mechanisms for achieving growth without inflation.

In the consultation process which will be an integral part of both the further refinement of price and income controls, and the development of new strategies, the government will be very responsive to the concerns and ideas of the people it serves, but will not swerve from its determination to remove inflation as the major threat to our economic health. The strategic areas upon which we hope to focus the attention and action of Canadians are employment policies, social policies, labour-management relations, the sharing of social responsibility, decentralization, growth and investment.

It will quickly become apparent, to all who choose to join with us in tackling the present impediments to stable growth, that inflation is a pervasive disease that is as serious a social and cultural problem as it is an economic one. It is because of the government's commitment to Liberal social goals that we place a particularly high priority upon dampening those inflationary forces which impede full employment, greater mutual respect, safety and health in the working place, and the decentralization of economic opportunities.

We invite the working men and women of Canada to be full partners in the pursuit of social justice and equality of opportunity, to join us under the umbrella of the law of the land in choosing better ways toward a better future for all Canadians.

[English]

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, when I was asked for a quick response to the throne speech I said that it had obviously been ghost-written by Dr. Gallup and that political expediency virtually oozed from each of its paragraphs. After an evening of reflection and spending some several hours in preparation for today's debate, and after listening to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) this afternoon, I feel my comments of last night were indeed a model of restraint.

The throne speech is a political document. It is punctuated throughout with the cynicism that underlines the government's contempt for the people of our country. I say contempt most

[Mr. Trudeau.]

seriously, because in more than two years since the last election the Liberal party has done nothing to deal with the problems it said were pressing in 1974. Now, having reached an all-time low in popularity, it thinks Canadians can be bought off with glib phrases.

Nowhere in the throne speech does the government indicate that it is planning a massive response to the worst level of unemployment in modern times. Instead the government responds with rhetoric which might improve its standing in the popularity polls.

Nowhere in the speech does the government indicate it has a policy to deal with the crisis of rising oil and gas prices. Instead it only talks of an awareness of the need for conservation of energy resources.

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Nowhere in the Speech from the Throne does the government indicate it is prepared to come to grips with the serious housing needs of the people of Canada. Instead it complacently admits that its currently inadequate housing policies will have to do in the future.

The outline of the government's proposals reads like a litany of past and future evasions. In almost every case the government touches on some important element of Canadian life only to avoid coming to grips with the issues. And, as I have already said, the Speech makes no more than a passing reference to three of our most serious problems—jobs, energy, and housing. When the federal government, the senior level of government, can produce a document as cynical as that which was read from the Throne yesterday, is it any wonder so many people today are turned off by politics and politicians?

Why should Canadians take their government or politicians seriously when the governing politicians ignore the real problems facing the vast majority of the people? Why should they trust the government, particularly the government of the present Prime Minister, a politician who in 1974 campaigned for office pledging action in specific areas and totally rejecting wage and price controls? What we got were controls and no action on the specific problems which were the subject of his undertakings. Mr. Speaker, no politician in this country has done more than the present Prime Minister to foster the skepticism with which Canadians increasingly view political activities.

Canadians are fed up with political promises of a "just society", or more recently a "new society", when those promises come from a party which vacillates instead of leading. Now, according to the Speech from the Throne, the Prime Minister has embarked upon a program to build a "middle society", a society in which "individual initiative" and "reliance on the market" become the touchstones of government policy, a so-called "middle society" where social goals are pursued by improving the market because that is what the business community wants.

Does the Prime Minister think Canadians cannot see through this middle-of-the-road nonsense? Does the government think Canadians will not recognize this cynicism?