

The Address—Mr. Patterson

Mr. Herridge: Does the hon. member not realize that the Prime Minister once voted for Social Credit?

Mr. Patterson: We hope the time will come when he will vote for it again.

In spite of what the Prime Minister has said or may say, we are living in an age when government intervention and control are extending into every avenue of life. This is one thing about which Canadians are becoming very disturbed. In fact, there is a reference to it in the speech from the throne. I shall not take the time to look it up but it related to the government and the increasing role it plays in the affairs of the citizens of Canada.

I have before me an editorial which appeared on May 9, 1967 in the *Globe and Mail*. I will read two brief portions of the editorial:

Toward its end yesterday's speech from the throne referred to "the involvement of the government in many matters." Those eight words somehow capsule the intention of this centennial speech from the throne. In the early years of our history the tendency of governments was toward participation in those areas of our society where we could not individually achieve our aspiration—we went on the basis that the best government was the least government. The trend has been manifestly in the opposite direction since the second world war, but perhaps it has never been stated with such emphasis before.

Toward the end it goes on to say:

But what distinguishes this speech, apart from its scope, is its preoccupation with an intensification of governmental presence as Canada begins its second century. The speech puts it this way, "We who find ourselves in positions of authority must always remember that it is our responsibility and our opportunity to serve the needs and aspirations of the Canadian people."

The difficulty, of course, will lie in making sure that those in "positions of authority" remember the word "serve".

It is a word that is often forgotten when the emphasis is on "the involvement of the government in many matters."

I suggest that the Prime Minister and the government pay attention to those words because they are significant in light of the Prime Minister's emphasis on the right of individuals to live their own lives and develop their own personalities according to their wishes.

There must be a development of our moral and spiritual resources. If we follow Canada's history from its beginning we will see the important place that faith and religion have occupied in the development of this nation. Today as we face change, with old concepts discarded and old foundations crumbled, we must ask ourselves what is to happen to the

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old precepts, concepts and foundations upon which this nation was built.

Let me refer again to a statement in the speech from the throne which has already been placed on record:

With our forefathers, the fight was against the immense odds of nature on our half of this continent. Today the main struggle is against social injustice, against cultural mediocrity, against spiritual stagnation and against all forms of intolerance.

This is a rather gloomy portrayal of the Canadian scene today. One wonders how this statement fits into the rest of this document which refers in glowing terms to what the government has accomplished and what it intends to do in the future. In the middle we find this dismal portrayal of the scene today. Without over-emphasizing its importance, I think we should give some consideration to the meaning of that statement. If it is accurate the time has come for us to look to our moral and spiritual moorings. I confess that one cannot legislate righteousness but I say that we ought not to legislate anything that will undermine righteousness. This statement should give us plenty of food for thought as we consider the situation which exists in this country today. Perhaps that thought was in the mind of Right Hon. Vincent Massey, a former Governor General of Canada, when he said some years ago that Canada's centennial would provide a good opportunity for spiritual stocktaking.

In the midst of our material progress and technological development, as well as the development of our human resources, let us tie in this other consideration because it has application and a message for us today. Canada has come a long way. Evidence of this is all around us, but we must not neglect those things upon which our nation was originally founded. If we do we do so at our own peril.

● (3:10 p.m.)

Earlier I mentioned that I did not intend to deal specifically with the speech from the throne but I should like to mention one or two things generally. The time has come when we in this house and in this parliament ought to set our house in order. This is a trite statement, I suppose, and it has been said over and over again, but I should like to place additional emphasis on it today. We must set our own political house in order right here in the House of Commons. The country is not impressed with the way its business is being handled. I do not think there are very many in this house who would disagree with that