

will deem it advisable to transfer the jurisdiction from the city of Sudbury to the Department of Transport in order that the population be offered an adequate service.

For example, it is high time that our area be serviced by jets as is the case in centres much smaller than ours at the present time.

In perusing the program proposed by the government for this third session, I am pleased, like all my constituents, I am sure, by the fact that the government will give special consideration to all citizens without exception, at all levels of society, and mainly to the disabled, both young and old.

I do not have time to comment on the numerous measures which will be introduced these next few months. I will mention only a few like, for instance, the establishment of two new departments: Urban Affairs and Housing, to remedy the problems created by the influx of people into our great cities and to give particular attention to the housing crisis and to the pollution of our environment. A number of measures will be introduced especially on air pollution and tax reform, designed to divide more equitably the economic burden and improve the small wage-earner's lot.

There will be amendments to existing legislation on labour-management relations so as to improve the collective bargaining process and establish a more modern legal framework to that end.

Mr. Speaker, as I have the honour to represent people who are for the most part wage earners belonging to a powerful labour union, I am sure they will watch closely the new amendments to the Labour Code.

New measures will also be introduced to give consumers better protection so that they know better what they buy and so as to protect them against unfair practices.

The existing unemployment insurance system will be amended so as to increase the number of eligible people. Special consideration will be given to the possibility of providing assistance to the unemployed so as to enable them to secure decent employment.

As I said earlier, and again in order to enable people to take part in the preparation of measures concerning them directly, a number of white papers will soon be issued on foreign ownership in the Canadian economy, national defence, citizenship, immigration, the status of women and social security.

In the white paper on social security, special attention will be given to the old age security pension plan and family allowances.

It is high time that we show greater concern for our old people. Many of them may well be the poorest citizens in Canada, while they actually were the ones who built up this prosperous country in which we live today. For several of them, the pension cheque is hardly large enough to pay the rent. I hope this government will increase by a substantial amount the pension payments which are the only income these old men and women ever get.

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The Address—Mr. Howe

As regards the old age security pension, as in the case of family allowances, may I be allowed to suggest that the benefit rates be increased considerably but that eligibility be limited. In other words, it could be withdrawn from those whose income is large enough to provide for their own needs, and it could accordingly be increased in the case of lower income citizens.

There is a group of pensioned citizens who are not treated fairly and I refer here to retired railwaymen. I do hope that the CNR management will find their way to accept the last recommendations of the Committee on Transport and Communications that the already pensioned employees and those who will retire in the future may enjoy the same advantages as the employees of other sectors. As of now I urge the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) and the Minister of Transport to put the necessary pressure on.

• (9:20 p.m.)

[English]

I certainly hope that during this third session of our 28th Parliament, our colleagues in the opposition will choose to be less negative and more positive, less irresponsible and more constructive, so that we may stand firm and united during these difficult days that lie ahead, and so that we may each contribute more fully according to our talents and experience toward the fulfilment of our common ideal; a just society in a united Canada.

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): As has been customary over the years, Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Trudel) and seconder (Mr. Douglas) of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. However, I say to them that they should not be carried away by all the congratulatory remarks that have been made, irrespective of the fact that their contributions were good and their efforts in this House have been commendable. There have been a great many members chosen to move and second previous Speeches from the Throne who are not here today. Other criteria are necessary to win the confidence of the people who are in this great House of Commons.

My wife and I would like to join with the thousands who have tendered their sympathy to Madame Laporte and her children, and well as the colleagues of Mr. Laporte. I sincerely hope that the memory of the happy associations and the pride in the outstanding achievements of a husband and father will be a great consolation in the days of trial ahead.

My constituency is mainly rural. I was rather surprised that there was not more said about agriculture in the Speech from the Throne. Just one small paragraph referred to export sales, the Lift program, marketing and a few things in that connection. I wish to quote from an article which appeared in the September 14 issue of the *Globe and Mail*. The article is headed "Applied research felt need for agriculture", and reads:

A special study for the Science Council of Canada recommends creation of two federal boards and five specialized research centres to co-ordinate agricultural research and shift the emphasis to applied research.

[Sawell 1.74]