

In April, 1980 I said that my constituents share with most Canadians a desire to share in the good life that we know the country can offer. They share the same frustrations at not being able to share fully in this good life. They share the hardships, both economic and social, that are the results of decades of unconcerned and misdirected government in our country. In that 1980 speech, I spoke of the farmers, their problems and concerns, one of which at that time was their fear that sooner or later they were going to lose the benefits of the Crowsnest Pass freight rates. As we all know, that has now gone. Almost immediately, instead of getting the great benefits which the Government promised us, farmers are already feeling the adverse effects of that change.

● (1600)

This last week I received a letter from a farmer in my constituency in the Town of Stonewall. He wrote that the Canadian Wheat Board will not be introducing regular quota increases until after January 1, when the new rates take effect. It does not take much to figure out that Canadian National and Canadian Pacific are once again putting it to the farmers. They are refusing to move grain until such time as they will be getting paid more for that movement. This is known to my friends to the right as corporate fair play. Let me read a paragraph from that letter which my constituent Mr. Ross wrote to me:

This is distressing to me and many other farmers. We are operating in a period of depressed grain prices and high production costs. Year-end is a time when many bills must be paid including crop insurance, taxes, mortgages, et cetera. A cash flow is necessary to meet these obligations, and we depend on an increased quota at this time of the year. Moreover, considerable difficulty is experienced by many farmers in reaching granaries and loading grain during mid-winter.

As a layman in the field of agriculture, I have always been mystified by the fact that the return that a farmer receives for his work does not at all reflect the increases in his costs. This has not changed for years, let alone since 1980. This is a problem that is getting very close to the breaking point. It must be addressed and solved very soon, or we will have catastrophic effects both for the Canadian farmers and the many people around the world whom we feed, yet we see nothing in the Throne Speech to address those specific concerns.

In my 1980 speech, I spoke as well of the concerns of the fishing industry, a very important sector in my constituency. I will at this point recognize the one positive item in the Throne Speech that I have come across, that is the increase in the fishing vessel assistance program. Aside from that, continuing low prices, and in some cases even decreased prices, for fish, along with the continuing stagnant economy, have made the fishing industry in Manitoba less viable today than it was in 1980. As well, the ongoing construction of the Garrison Diversion unit in North Dakota of which I have spoken often in this House, continues to pose further threats to the viability of this industry.

In 1980, I also spoke of the plight of my constituents who are natives. I said at that time that the natives of Selkirk-

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Interlake were concerned about unemployment, the lack of adequate educational opportunity and the lack of decent housing. They are disturbed about the lack of understanding among the bureaucrats in the Department of Indian Affairs. They asked to be allowed to run their own lives, a not unreasonable request in Canada of the 1980s.

Very recently a report on Indian self-government was tabled in the House. It was a remarkable report, not only for its contents, which are bold, far-reaching and would go a long way toward addressing and eventually solving many of the concerns of Canadian Indians, but also remarkable for the process by which it was produced. Members of all Parties of this House, each with their own political interests and political biases, worked together with representatives of the Canadian Indians to reach this agreement.

It is no secret that Canadian Indians for very obvious reasons have come to distrust the white governments of this land. They have waited for over 200 years in this part of the country and for over 100 years in my part to be treated with the minimum of respect deserving to human beings, but especially to Canada's first peoples. One group of Indian bands in my constituency has become so distrustful of the Ottawa Government that they do not believe in the good intentions of this report on self-government. They fear that it is simply a means of taking more power away from the Indians. Let me quote from an article in a recent edition of the *Winnipeg Sun*, quoting Chief Bill Traverse of the Jackhead Reserve in my constituency. It reads:

The new law is such that the Indian nations will be told how to run their governments and they'll be forced to deal with several departments, which only multiplies the troubles they now have with one Department of Indian Affairs.

I do not share Chief Traverse's concern at this time. Having played a very small part in the preparation of that report, I believe in the sincerity of its framers. I believe it will have very positive benefits for our natives if and when it is implemented.

The Government promised in the Throne Speech to implement that report. I say to the Government today that this is one time that it must live up to its promise to Canada's Indians. Indeed, it is absolutely imperative that we not let the Indians down yet again.

This Throne Speech does little for my constituents. It gives them very little hope that their lot is to improve in either the immediate or long-term future. Certainly we welcome the crumbs that will come from the few extra dollars available for Canada Works and other such programs. In these difficult times, we would be fools to reject even these small amounts. However, we want real jobs, real opportunities to live a full and decent life that we know our country is capable of providing to all Canadians, if only we had the governments with the guts to lead us in the directions necessary to provide those opportunities.

I would like to comment for a few moments on the peace initiative mentioned in this Throne Speech. We in this corner of the House certainly welcome the priority given by the Throne Speech to the pursuit of peace as a paramount goal of Canada and Canadians. As I said a few moments ago in this